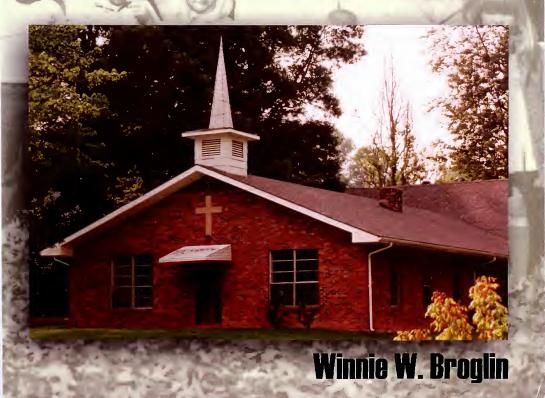


United Methodist Church Hot Springs, N.C.

Built on Faith



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Antioch United Methodist Church

Hot Springs, North Carolina

Built on Faith

Historian and Author: Winnie Wills Broglin

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Editor: Stephen Schoof

Mountain Church

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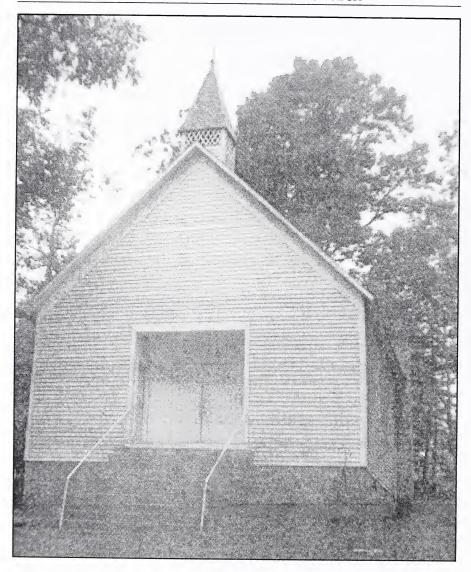
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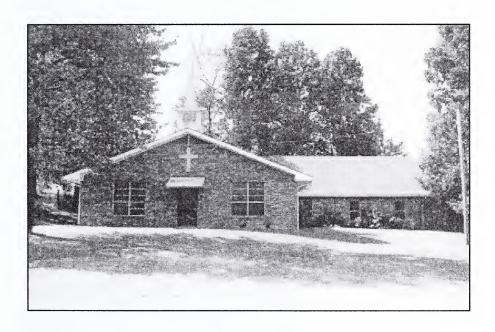
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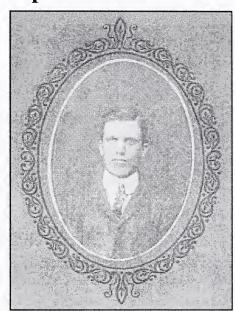
The way we were then—early 1900s



...and now

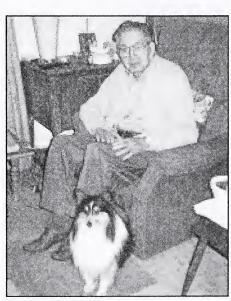
Sunday School Superintendents

George Wells (photo not available)

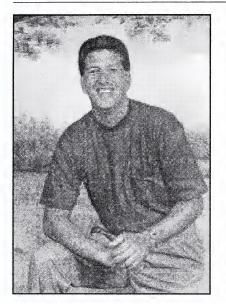


Charles T. Lawson

Walter Jack Shipley (photo not available)



Fred Barnett



John Henry Lamb Jr.



Neal Barnett



Eugene Lawson



Isabel Barnett Maynard

PREFACE

This is the story of a little country church and its people.

Some of the information consists of the remembrances of those who live in the community and have been associated with the church for most of their lives. For them, getting together to talk about the church's history has been a source of joy.

The story also includes factual information, much of which was found in letters and charge records left by the various pastors. Some kept better records than others. The Reverend Harry Sellers, who was pastor for the longest amount of time that the new building was under construction, left a good deal of dated correspondence that has proved most valuable.

Also helpful were the United Methodist Archives in Charlotte, which was able to provide a partial list of ministers and service terms back to the mid-1800s.

This is not a complete record. There is much that is not touched upon, but it is the total of the information available.

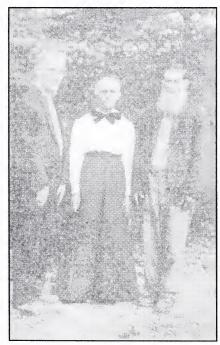
The author is grateful to everyone who contributed to this history.



Dave Lawson



Ann Lawson



Henry Lawson, Nannie Lawson, John Freshour



George and Polly Wills Swaney

THE JOURNEY BEGINS

The story of the Antioch Church family begins outside Hot Springs, North Carolina, near the Tennessee state line.

According to records from the Methodist Church Archives, Antioch's first minister was the Reverend W. H. Cooper, who began serving in 1867. Back then, Antioch was a member of the Holston Conference in Tennessee. This was well before a building had been established, so worship and prayer presumably occurred in the homes of Christians throughout the community.

The Archive lists the following ministers and dates of service:

1867 ~ W. H. Cooper 1870 ~ R. L. Smith 1879 ~ D. H. Coman 1883 ~ J. T. Smith 1886 ~ C. T. Carroll 1888 ~ R. W. Pickens 1890 ~ W. B. Lyda

There have been at least three different church buildings at two different locations in the Antioch community since its beginning. Information about these early days is scarce and sometimes confusing. The Madison County Courthouse contains a couple of relevant deeds, while previous histories provide rough timelines for crucial events.

The first deed, from November 1, 1899, is an indenture between J. M. Gudger, Jr., and his wife Katie, and N. J. Lance and his wife Fannie E., to the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Antioch in Madison County of the Western North Carolina Conference. This indenture states that for a sum of one dollar, a parcel of land in #9 Township was transferred from the Gudgers and Lances to the Methodist Church Trustees at Antioch. This may refer to the land along US 25/70 that now contains the Antioch Cemetery. J. P. Wells, J. A. Gorrell, and F. C. Ebbs appear as trustees.

A second deed, dated August 22, 1922, conveyed land from H. C. Wood and his wife Nellie to the Trustees of the Antioch Methodist Church for the sum of seventy-five dollars. This deed likely refers to the current church site at the intersection of Grassy Creek Road and Highway 25-70, and lists J. M. Waddell, V. L. Church, J. P. Wells, G. F. Wells, C. T. Lawson, W. C. Church, and James Harkleroad as trustees.

Thus, the deeds would indicate that the first church was built in 1899 and moved to its present location around 1922. An earlier history, though, clearly states that the church made this move in 1890, "while George Wells was Sunday School Superintendent"—nine years before the church even owned the first tract!

One explanation is that the church was built and moved before it ever actually owned the properties involved. Perhaps the buildings were constructed on land still technically owned by individual members. At any rate, it *is* safe to assume that the original building appeared on the present-day Antioch Cemetery land sometime in the late nineteenth century. This first structure was a small, one-room log building that served double-duty as a church on Wednesday nights and Sundays and the community school the rest of the week. Some early known members were Sarah Jane Black, Henry Lawson, Emma Fitzgerald, Sue Rogers, and Mack Lamb.

After moving to the new location at Grassy Creek, the first known building was a white wood frame structure with a steeple and bell, which the superintendent used to summon the countryside to worship. The foundation was rock, with a front door high enough off the ground that twelve steps were needed to enter the large double doors. Inside were two rows of long black seats on each side of the aisle leading down to the altar. Both the seats and the altar were sawn and hewn by Green Waddell, Sr., and Zack Barnett. The altar was particularly large, surrounding the entire pulpit and podium, which was one step higher than the congregation. Three tall windows punctuated each side of the church, and two were behind the podium. The organ sat to the right and a piano was later placed on the left.

In the summer the tall, open church was cool and inviting, with an old oak tree just outside to provide shade from the summer sun. In the winter a big pot-bellied stove stood to the right of the altar, burning coal purchased from a truck that came peddling just before snow and cold temperatures arrived. Early on these winter mornings, one of the men walked to church to build a fire that would get the building nice and toasty before the congregation arrived. Everyone wanted to sit near the front on those mornings, unless the wind was blowing, in which case the stove spewed big puffs of black smoke.

A cistern behind the church provided water for thirsty parishioners. Rainwater was caught in a trough along the edge of the roof, running into the covered cistern, which had a hand pump that allowed users to drink straight from the mouth of the pump.

Occasionally someone would have a "bathroom emergency." For just such times an outhouse was located behind the building. Going to the outhouse did not require an emergency: if you were looking for a good excuse to leave the service while Mom and Dad were otherwise occupied, you might stroll over to the outhouse belonging to the family across the road.

In most rural communities, the church formed the heart and soul of the people. It not only provided weekly spiritual renewal, but also formed the social hub of the area. News was spread through announcements, neighbors visited, and teenagers and young people found that "special someone" sitting on the back pew on Wednesdays and Sundays. Church was the place young children made lifelong friends. It was a family affair, and everyone eagerly anticipated the appointed hour for worship.

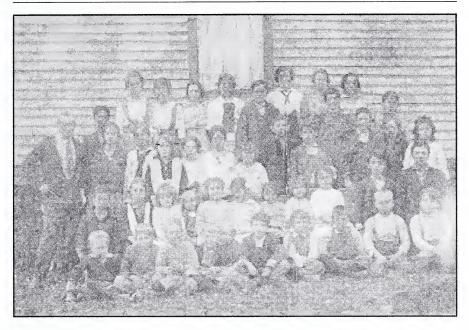
Antioch was no exception, and it has always provided a wonderful place to worship. Just entering the sanctuary revealed the quiet and peaceful serenity of God's House. If you went with a heavy heart, being in the house of the Lord made your spirits rise, and if you went with a glad heart, you left with an even more joyous spirit. Members remember services when spirits were so full they just overflowed and worshippers shouted in the aisles. Revivals (which were sometimes held in a tent instead of the church house) in particular were loud and spirited: everyone sang, shouted, preached and prayed, praising their Lord and Savior.

The church served families in the community in good times as well as bad, and families have been loyal and supportive of the church down through the generations. For example, Dave and Annie Lawson were members of the first congregation. Their son Clarence was christened in 1905. He in turn grew up and married Nannie Holt, with whom he had four children. Some of them still live in the community and are active in the church. (Clarence himself was a song leader and trustee, working hard to build the new church in the early 1960s.)

Around 1892, Antioch left the Holston Conference in Tennessee and joined the Western Carolina Conference. The Western District meets in Lake Junaluska each June to take care of church business and to assign ministers to the area charges; following is a list (provided by the Methodist Ar-

chives in Charlotte) of Antioch's ministers and the dates they served from 1892 till the present:

1892	~	F. W. Mansfield	1898	~	Harold Turner
1902	~	J. W. Ricker	1903	~	D. P. Lamb
1905	~	J. W. Puckett	1907	~	C. H. Neal
1908	~	F. E. Allison	1909	~	C. R. Allison
1911	~	G. T. Rowe	1914	~	H. A. Hastey
1915	~	J. R. Warren	1917	~	J. M. Green
1920	~	C. H. Christenbury	1921	~	W. J. Huges
1922	~	A. A. Angel	1927	~	C. B, Newton
1929	~	G. L. Lovett	1929	~	J. B. Umberger
1930	~	Russell Caudill	1932	~	Oakley E. Croy
1933	~	Charles W. Clay	1934	~	Moir Edwards
1936	~	Robert M. Varner	1937	~	J. R. Duncan
1938	~	J. N. Snow	1940	~	Z. V. Arthur
1942	~	W. C. Clark	1944	~	Edgar Clapp
1952	~	Z. V. Arthur	1953	~	J. A. Green
1954	~	W. A. Rich	1955	~	J. A. Alber
1956	~	J. C. Wakefield	1960	~	Robert M. Brittain
1960	~	Elbert H. Goode	1962	~	Harry Sellers
1967	~	Donald Turman	1969	~	Finley M. Orr
1970	~	L. Paul Heafner	1973	~	Baxter Proffitt
1976	~	Randall Lanier	1977	~	E. O. Queen
1978	~	William Haselden	1981	~	Harry Wing
1984	~	Bobby Miller	1986	~	Wyllene Skipper
1989	~	Rosco Garris	1994	~	John Roby
1995	~	Elgin R. Nichols	1995	~	Willis H. Pruett



The Year is 1913 The School Class of Carson Lawson

lst Row: Hermon Davis, Green Waddell,,, Elmer Lawson, Wesley Penland, Jack Barnett, Joe Lawson,
2nd Row:, Marie Davis,,,, Lucy Goode Southerland, Maggie Swaney Sexton,,, Clarence Lawson, Orville Gregg
3rd Row: Carson Lawson (teacher),, Minnie Swaney Stills, Bonnie Goode, Mildred Davis, Alene Harkleroad, Elizabeth Lawson,, Hugh Gardner, Hiram Gardner,, Melvin Roberts,
4th Row: Fannie Lawson Ricker, Dorothy Lamb Stevens, Pearl Lamb, Lawson girl,, Mary Swaney Lamb, Lillie Roberts Wills



Dorothy Stevens' Sunday School Class Early 1940s Reva Harkleroad, Violet Wills, Milford Lawson, Glen Barnett the others I was not able to identify

SHARING IN GOD'S LOVE

The earliest secretaries' reports are from 1929 to 1933, and can be supplemented by individual remembrances.

Charlie Lawson, son of Henry Lawson, was superintendent during this period. He usually conducted services, though records indicate this responsibility was also carried out by others, including G. F. Wells, C. W. Clay, Wesley Pendland, and A. A. Angel. The record of minutes was not always signed, but some signatures do appear: "Brother" Lovitt, A. J. Fain, George Wells, and Helen Chockley.

This was a time when work was hard and money was scarce. Collections were meager—usually just a few cents each Sunday—and were therefore spent wisely. (July 19, 1931, for example, saw a total collection of 44 cents.) Monies were usually used for cleaning the church: Melva Sexton began doing this on November 1, 1927, and was paid \$2.00 per month. If there wasn't enough money in the collections, various members paid her.

Occasionally a Sunday School class would receive some of the collections for a special project. One such project included reading chapters in the Bible, for which readers received a beautiful new Bible at its conclusion. (Mrs. Amanda Sexton Cutshall still has her mother, Melva Swaney's, project Bible.)

Reverend A. A. Angel is remembered as a well-respected minister and community member. When lightning fatally

struck one of his daughters, the church family was a source of great support. Dave Lawson spent much time with the Angel's, and Polly Wills Swaney sent her young daughter Melva to help with the family's chores during this difficult time.

The Sunday School report as recorded by the secretary provides a glimpse of the congregation. This is the Attendance Roll as listed for December 22, 1933 (only a partial listing, since the bottom of the page is missing):

Charles Waddell	Edd Waddell	Janette Chockley
Edna Lamb	Muriel Lamb	Viola Wills
Junior Swaney	Clydes Swaney	Vernon Stills
Frank Owens	Opal Woods	Wilma Lawson
Eula Kate Reed	Charles Stephens	Paul Shipley
Joe Shipley	Milford Lawson	Paul Parker
Dorothy Shipley	Ruth Wood	Kathleen Wills
Sherman Shipley	Luvina Miller	Revel Lawson
Ervin Harkleroad	Everett Lawson	Andy Gowan
Dolman Gowen	Hardy Woody	Edith Lawson
Lucille Gowan	Wallace Stephens	Carl Almany
Hubert Lamb	Gladys Harkleroad	Dessie Waddell
Melva Swaney	Fannie Miller	Ethel Church
Lucy Church	Iceam Church	Juanita Lamb
Helen Chockley	Helen Shipley	Adrian Martin
Joe Wood	Reeves Church	Arthur Lawson
Robert Miller	Lorena Wills	Anna Mae Wills
Eula Ralston	John Henry Wood	John Parker
John Waddell	Margaret Martin	Paul Wood
Joe Owens	Paul Harkleroad	Ruby Lamb
Violet Wills	Alma Lawson	Edith Owens
Lee Stephens	Anderson Parker	Fannie Mae Owens

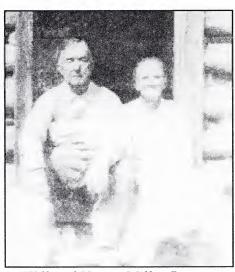
Edith Lawson Corrie Lee Lawson Melva Swaney
Maggie Harkleroad Bernice Miller Gladys Harkleroad
Lillian Miller Octavia Lawson

Sunday School teachers were Ina Lawson, Clarence Lawson, Pauline Church, and Mrs. Harkleroad.

The author found it particularly interesting that, although men usually conducted the services, Maggie Harkleroad conducted the December 17, 1933 service.



Robert and Melva Swaney Sexton



Will and Hester Miller Swaney

The Friday-night "Christmas Tree" service on December 22, 1933, gives a glimpse of expenditures: with \$58.05 in the treasury, the church used \$4.25 for literature, \$3.17 for a children's home, \$1.00 for the Christmas tree, and \$1.26 for missions. Eighty-three cents went for coal for the stove.

The secretaries' minutes not only document church business, but also reveal the character of some of the members. The notes on May 6, 1934, state: "See Edith Lawson chewing gum and Ralph Angel misbehaved in class and will remain thirty

minutes after church." For August 26, 1934: "Bennie got an awful fall today and Gladys is chewing gum again." And on May 31, 1936: "I will be 18 years old tomorrow, June 1, 1936." Could this be Gladys Harkleroad? The minutes here were signed by Juanita Freshour, Mary Swaney, and Ruby Lamb.

The 1935 record book lists Sunday School Officers as C. T. Lawson (superintendent), Gladys Harkleroad (secretary/treasurer), and Mrs. Harlkeroad, Mrs. Huff, Ina Lawson, and V. L. Church (teachers). On occasion, Green Waddell and Walter Shipley would lead services.

Moving on to the 1939 record book, Walter Shipley is the superintendent. Though these notes were not signed, they are enlightening and somewhat humorous, revealing that people and personalities really do not change through the years. On December 4, 1938, for example, the section for "remarks" is noted with "too many to mention." On May 7, 1939, a writer gives some pertinent advice: "Don't make too many smart-aleck remarks at church or nowhere else." This same day's writer mentions the "very bad conduct by class #3" and says that "Walter Shipley got mad and V. L. Church conducted the services for the rest of the month and on through September 10th."

During this time, pastors devoted several lessons to alcohol and its effects on individuals, families, and communities. There are still signs of growth among the confusion. There is a decidedly noticeable increase in attendance, with June 25, 1939 bringing a record attendance of 100 people, the most recorded yet.

The record book for 1938 to 1942 lists the Attendance Roll as follows (some names are the same, but some new ones appear):

Walter Jack Shipley, Superintendent and Class Teacher.

Mae Gentry Claude Sawyer Mae Shipley
Hazel Waddell James Strom Hiram Strom
Alvin Lovin Dewey Wills Charles Waddell

Ralph Barnett	Helen Gardner	Frances Barnett
Muriel Lamb	Alma Lawson	Helen Reed
Ruby Lamb	Carl Almany	Annie Almany
Dellie Wyatt	Eunie Wyatt	Maurice Almany
Jack Barnett	Henry Thomas	Carl Wyatt
Hugh Stevens	Lucy Church	Icsam Church
Hubert Church	James Harkleroad	Dicky Tom Church
Jeanette Chockley	Adrian Woody	Juanita Lamb
Bowlen Gentry	Maggie Gowan	Mr. Smith
William Gentry	John Waddell	Lee Stevens
Allan Gowans	Beulah Gowans	Harley Church
Melvin Lamb	Ralph Sawyer	Ina Lawson
Katherine Gowan	Steve Wills	Edith Miller
Florence Cook	Vinson Maynard	Viola Wills
Ruth Wills	Edna Lamb	Paul Shipley
James Sawyer	Pauline Gowans	Gwendolyn Swaney
Ralph Wyatt	Pauline Griffin	Erwin Harkleroad
Edna Gentry	Sherman Shipley	Junior Wills
Bullet Shipley	Freddy Joe Strom	Neal Barnett
Glen Barnett	Pete Shipley	Clydes Swaney
Junior Swaney	Eugene Wills	Vernor Wills
Dee Strom	Paul and Shelby Whit	ten

Frances and Arnold Goodson Junior and Viola Hagan

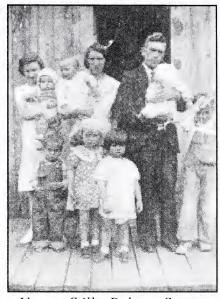
Kathleen and Clyde Parks Edd Waddell

Paul Shipley, Pauline Gowan and Reed

A personal note appears on this page: "I got to go to Jefferson City and White Pine on Christmas Day." The names Frances and Henry are recorded here.



Arnold and Mary Swaney
Lamb



Vernon Stills, Roberts Sexton (holding Amanda), Maggie Sexton (holding Shermont Stills), Ruby Lamb (holding Mary Swaney), Willard Swaney, Helen Sexton, Geneva Stills

We now skip to 1944 through 1946. Kathleen Wills' and Evelyn Swaney's names appear at random throughout this book. Did they keep the minutes? There is not much new to report until December 1944, when a glimpse of the Christmas treat bag appears in the Christmas treat order. Here were 3 boxes of mixed candy, 8 boxes of stick candy and chocolate, 1 bushel of apples, 1 crate of oranges, and 186 pokes. The attendance roll is listed again and has grown, presumably because young people have grown up, gotten married, and produced large families. Notice the number of children listed, as well as the new family names:

Fred Barnett Mr. Will Church Rev. E. B. Clapp Hattie Barnett Mrs. Will Church Mrs. E. B. Clapp

Frances Barnett Neal Barnett Glen Barnett Isabel Barnett Billy Fowler Marie Gentry Gerdine Gentry, Jr. Audrey Hall Carolyn Hall Dorothy Hall Paul Hall Wanda Hall Mrs. Harsey Maynard Marie Maynard Maurice Maynard Dave Lawson Annie Lawson Clarence Lawson Nannie Lawson Milford Lawson Jimmy Lawson Eugene Lawson **Jeanette Lawson** Ina Lawson Alma Lawson Mrs. Elmer Lawson Alfred Lovin Delmas Lovin Mr. M. Ralston Claude Stills Vernon Stills Shermont Stills Geneva Stills

Howard Church Marie Church Paul Ruble Church Emmitt Harkleroad Mr. F. L. Fowler Mrs. Celia Wills Ricker Roy Ricker Ruby Ricker Wanda Ricker Helen Reed Eula Kate Reed Thurman Reed Walter Sawyer James Sawyer Junior Sawyer Charles Sawyer Kate Sawyer Claude Sawyer Dorothy Sawyer Bob Sexton Amanda Sexton **Bobby Sexton** Helen Sexton Elmer Sexton Lillian Sexton Walter Shipley Mae Shipley Sherman Shipley Paul Shipley Mr. France Stills Gwendolyn Swaney C. J. Swaney Willard Swaney

Mr. Mac Conner Mrs. Mac Conner Grace Darnell Bobby Jo Mathis Ioan Morris Addie Mae Shipley Louise Shipley Orville Shipley Mary V. Shipley Freddie Ioe Strom Franklin D. Strom **Johnnie Strom** Sarah Ann Thomas Green Waddell Edd Waddell Kathleen Waddell Marvin Waddell Mrs. Eulah Wills Lillie Wills Violet Wills David Wills Ruth Wills Viola Wills Kathleen Wills **Eugene Wills** Charles Wills Steve Wills Junior Swaney Mary Swaney Shelby Jean Swaney Evelyn Swaney Jeanette Swaney Martha Sawyer

These names were written together as if girlfriend-boy-friend: Edna and Richard, Charles Southerland and Meadie Rathbone, Kathleen Wills and Buster Gahagan, Evelyn Swaney and Fred Baker, Louise Shipley and Jack Ward, Wanda Hall and Verlin Shelton, Leo-Donald Holt and Ruth Wills, Rabbit and Viola, Charles Southerland and Viola Wills (Note, "Correct").

These names were found in another section of the record book with an unknown date:

Vaughn Barnett	Wilma Jean Etherton	Dicky Tom Gentry
Dewey Foster	June Etherton	Jabo Gentry
Reva Foster	Bun Etherton	Grace Gentry
Charles Foster	Carolyn Hall	Joe Shipley
Max Osteen	Paul Hall	Mae Shipley
Marie Osteen	Juanita Lawson	Virginia Shipley
Emma Kate Davis	Arthur Lawson	Faye Shipley
Linda Waddell	Dolman Gowan	Junior Shipley
Hazel Waddell	Dorothy Lawson	Harley Church
Nancy Hudson	Bernard Gosnell	Kate Church
Edward Stanley	Gene Gosnell	Paul Wyatt
Pauline Stanley	Gailyon Gosnell	Jack Woody
Ruth Wood	Kate Gosnell	Jeraldine Southerland
George Wood	Edna Morris	Martha Sawyer
Nell Plemmons	June Morris	Vinnie Sawyer
A. C. Plemmons	Arnold Lamb	Paul Sawyer
Donnie Church	Mary Lamb	Earnest Sawyer
Sharon Gentry	Muriel Lamb	Rex Strom
Minnie Stills	Edna Lamb	Ann Strom
Maggie Sexton	Roger Beck	James Strom
Paul Ellison	Linda Sue Beck	Wayne Strom
Helen Ellison	Judge Dunbar	Judy Strom
Polly Ellison	Mrs. Judge Dunbar	Doris Hollan

Clydes Swaney	Faye Dunbar	Rebecca Hollan
Girty Mae Swaney	Emmitt Harkleroad	David Hollan
Aileen Swaney	Gerdine Gentry	Wayne Hollan
Burnett Wills	Carl Thornburg	Buddy Hollan
Eulah Wills	David Thornburg	Darylene Hollan
Joann Morris	Edith Miller	Homer Foster
Lat Stanley	Harold Miller	Frances Foster
Mary Thomas	Jean Cook	Jerry Foster
Clifford Green	Reva Harkleroad	Virgil Foster
Minnie Green	Lucille Gowan	Ronald Lawson
Ovella Green	Doyle Miller	Hubert Gentry
Brenda Green	Perry Gowan	Junior Gosnell
Junior Green	Mrs. Perry Gowan	Charles Lawson
Cleo Wills	Ethel Harkleroad	Margaret Maynard
Alonzo Wills	Doyle Morris	Martha Ann Gosnell
Roberta Wills	Mrs. Bailey	Hester Swaney
Pauline Wills	Eugene Wills	

Each year at Christmas, Antioch still presents a Christmas program consisting of a Christmas play, carols, and the giving and receiving of gifts among the congregation. The church also buys candy, apples, oranges, nuts, and gum for a treat bag ("poke") for everyone to take home.

Here are the contents of the program and its participants for 1949, in the days when the Christmas tree was still obtained by someone cutting it from the woods:

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS ~ Grace Gentry

THE CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS ~ Elmer Sexton, Lillian Sexton, C. J. Swaney and Isabel Barnett

JUST LIKE A MAN ~ Carl Gentry

CHRISTMAS ANGELS ~ Shelby Jean Swaney, Margaret Maynard, Bernice Reed, Isabel Barnett, Christine Reed, and June Etherton

CHRISTMAS SONGS ~ Jeanette Swaney, Lillian Sexton, Faye Shipley, and Virginia Shipley

BUSY SANTA ~ Paul Wyatt

A PERFECT FRIEND ~ Girty Mae Swaney

TOO SMALL ~ Linda Sue Beck

SANTA'S HELPER ~ Orville Shipley

CHRISTMAS STARS ~ C. J. Swaney, Elmer Sexton, Lillian Sexton, Jeanette Swaney, Isabel Barnett, Tommy Barnett

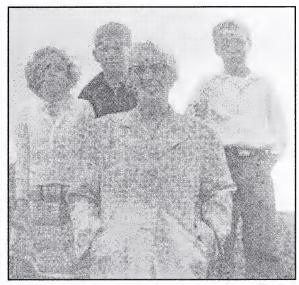
Over the next few years, the secretary's report gives little information. Whoever kept the minutes did not sign them and only recorded facts about attendance, collection, and Bible lessons. Our story will skip to the 1950s, a time of renewed work and growth.





Ina Lawson

Clarence and Nannie Lawson



Ethel Harkleroad, Linda Parks, Johnny Parks, Charles Gosnell



Lee Barnett



Emmett Harkleroad



Fred and Hattie Barnett Superintendent and Sunday School teacher



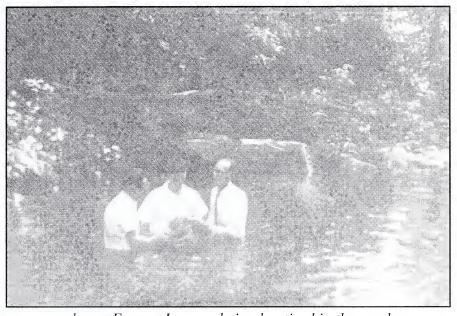


Elmer Lawson, worked to help build our new church

left: Claude Stills, a faithful supporter and prayer leader

below: Frances Strom and her children: Dwaine, Wayne, Judy, Kay, Timmy, Belinda, and Wade

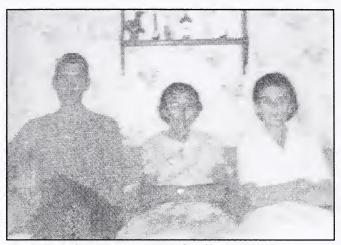




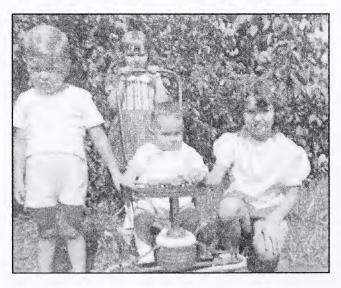
above: Eugene Lawson being baptized in the creek

below: The Sawyer family: Vinnie, Kate, Martha, Opal, Claude, Joe, Charles, Jim





Elmer, Maggie and Lillian Sexton



Freddie Barnett, Loretta Barnett, Polly Ellison, Ronald Caldwell (in the stroller)

A NEW DAWN APPROACHES

Reverend J. C. Wakefield was pastor when the members of the church's official board met to discuss the possibility of a new church building. The year was 1956, and the estimated cost was \$18,000. How would a poor farming community ever come up with that kind of money?

The Rev. Lee P. Barnett, a native son who had gone on to get an education and become involved in Methodist Church politics, was adamant that there were grants available from the Duke Endowment Fund for projects just like this. He stressed that with faithful, prayerful vigilance and a willingness for hard work God would provide the means to the desired end.

On April 6, 1959, District Superintendent Robert G. Tuttle finally authorized Reverend Wakefield to begin. At a meeting of the Official Board, Rev. Wakefield, as pastor of the Hot Springs charge, in turn authorized a committee to start the project on April 15.

In a letter to Superintendent Tuttle, pastor Wakefield discusses local labor for the new building, saying, "Mr. Clarence Lawson and his brother Elmer do the most beautiful stone work in this country," and that Clarence was willing to take charge of the building. In return correspondence, Superintendent Tuttle asks Rev. Wakefield to secure financial aid from the Duke Endowment, The Board of Missions, and the District Board of Church Extensions.

Meanwhile, Rev. Barnett secured Louis Asbury, a Charlotte architect, to donate his time drawing up plans for the new structure. And always looking for new ideas to help his "first church family," Barnett suggested in a letter to Joseph Tuttle of the District Office, "that we might consider naming the church 'Memorial.'...Then we could think of all the good folks who have lived and died in our church family." He proposed Mr. Gorrell be the one in whose memory the church was built, a suggestion that would be discussed with Ed Church.

By 1960, the church building committee consisted of:

Pastors: Robert Brittain and Elbert Goode

Chairman of the Official Board: Clarence Lawson

Treasurer of the Building Fund: Dolman Gowan

Chairman: Ed Church; Members: Fred Barnett, Neal Barnett, Emmitt Harkleroad, and Everett Lawson.

The actual construction was slated to begin in July 1960, with the education building to be finished by the summer of 1962. Now with a plan and organized leadership, the church still needed funds.

After some investigation of Rev. Barnett's suggestions, the Board found that approximately \$10,000 could be granted through the Duke Endowment and the District Church Missions Fund. This left \$8,000 to be raised by the congregation, so the building committee immediately listed anyone they thought could pledge money.

Unfortunately, it was June—the same time the Methodist Church traditionally moved pastors at its annual conference at Lake Junaluska. The fact that a church might be in the midst of a major building project made no difference—so exit Pastors Brittain and Goode. A young minister named Harry Sellers was sent in, turning out to be a Godsend as a dedicated and hardworking visionary. He believed the church could be built, never mind that his flock was dirt poor.

By September 1961, the education building was finished well enough to use for a year, during which the old sanctuary was torn down while the congregation tried to raise funds for a new one. Plans were to begin by October 15, 1963, at a cost of \$15,000.

Again Rev. Barnett came into the picture. He wrote Rev. Sellers to introduce the Rev. Rollin P. Gibbs of the Field Service and Finance branch of the Methodist Conference. Rev. Gibbs had a proven record of helping small rural churches raise needed finances, and specialized in Building Crusades.

Rev. Sellers prepared for the Crusade by getting the congregation organized, starting with a committee consisting of:

General Chairman: Clarence Lawson

Major: Neal Barnett

Crusade Community Visitors: Fred Barnett (captain), Frances Strom, Lillian Sexton, Bill Stanley, and David Wills. Elmer Lawson (captain), Everett Lawson, Charles Sawyer, Claude Stills, and Violet Wills.

Crusade Director: Rev. Rollin P. Gibbs.

Treasurer of the Building Fund: Dolman Gowan

Church Treasurer: Everett Lawson

Special Gifts Committee: Burlin Ricker (chairman), Charles Sawyer, David Wills, Mrs. Ruth Stills.

Meals and Picnic Committee: Lucille Gowan (chairwoman), Katherine Harkleroad, Geneva Barnett, and Juanita Lawson.

With the groundwork laid and the organization in place, invitations were issued to the community. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime Building Crusade," they read. "Come in time for Sunday School, bring a well-filled picnic basket and stay for lunch immediately following the close of worship service. At the close of the service everyone will be given the opportunity to indicate the part he will try to pay on the new church building." The motto read: "Building for the Present and for the Future of God's Kingdom." Clarence Lawson and Harry Sellers issued the invitation.

On Sunday, June 23, 1963, the Rev. Gibbs arrived to speak to the Antioch congregation. At the end of the crusade a total of

\$4,500 in pledges and \$200 in cash had been raised. Those who made pledges were: Clarence Lawson, Arthur Lawson, Vance Ricker, Delbert Reed, Mrs. Luvine Shelton, Claude Sawyer, Mrs. James Strom, John Strom, Joseph Wakefield, Thomas Goode, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Gowan, Claude A. Gowan, Grover Gowan, Mr. and Mrs. George Stevens, Edward Frisbee, T. R. Etherton, Neal Barnett, Fred Barnett, Glen Brooks, Mrs. Howard Allen, and H. E. Harkleroad.

Many people volunteered their labor. These persons were not only from Antioch and the surrounding community but all over Western North Carolina. In particular, those from the Western District Churches donated time, money, labor, and materials (there may have been others, but these were the ones documented):

Harold Bowling Haywood Street Methodist

Odell Owens, Jr. Etowah Methodist Rev. J. B. Thomas Etowah Methodist C. L. Norris Cummings Memorial

Glen Burnett

William Holden

Odell Owens

Lloyd Williams Mills River

Tom Holmes Baptist

James Sprouse

Robert Smith

Edward Griffin

Melvin Allison

Harry J. Nicholson

Walter Murphy

Odell Lewis

Willard Lewis Baptist

S. R. Wilkie

These men came from Antioch and surrounding communities:

Luther Waddell	Harry Sellers
Clarence Lawson	Elmer Lawson
Wayne Wills	Fred Barnett
Vaughn Barnett	Harley Church
Clyde Ricker	Clydes Swaney
Lewis Wills	Sammy Barnett
Gary Wills	Neal Barnett
Ernest Sawyer	William Gowan
Joe Sawyer	Bun Etherton
Jim Sawyer	Walter Sawyer
	Clarence Lawson Wayne Wills Vaughn Barnett Clyde Ricker Lewis Wills Gary Wills Ernest Sawyer Joe Sawyer

Charles Lawson

As time passed and progress slowed, Rev. Sellers revealed his concern in a letter dated August 22, 1966. William Nesbit, of the District Office, expressed a similar sentiment. He urged that those doing the rockwork finish before freezing weather arrived. Embree Blackard, District Superintendent, summed things up in a letter to Rev. Sellers in November: "The District Mission Society is very much concerned with Antioch being so slow in completing the building project." Then he went on to issue a challenge. "If you will get busy immediately and finish the work, the District Society will make an additional contribution of \$200 upon completion of the work." He instructed Rev. Sellers to discuss it with the congregation.

The church was very fortunate to have the leadership and dedication of Rev. Sellers. His years at Antioch required lots of hard work and many prayers to see the completion of the new building. But June of 1967 brought the District Conference and Sellers' transfer to Avery's Creek Methodist Church—his job at Antioch was finished.

In his place God sent another hard working and dedicated leader, Rev. Donald Turman. He picked up where Rev. Sellers

left off, being faced early on with the same problem his many predecessors had faced: many needs and no money. The new building now needed new pews, and, after a meeting, he planned to get people in the church and community to donate a pew in honor of a beloved family member or friend. These are the resulting memorials:

- 1. In honor of Wesley and Sue Church by Dennis and Clementine Church.
- 2. In memory of Thurman W. Reed by the Grant Reed Family.
- 3. In memory of our wife and mother, Nita Lawson Church, by Ed Lawson and Lois Church Moore.
- 4. In memory of V. L. Church by Allie Church, Nell Huff, and Virginia Anderson.
- 5. In memory of B. Y. Owensby by his wife, Mrs. B. Y. Owensby.
- 6. In memory of John Gorrell by his granddaughter, Fannie M. Owensby.
- 7. In loving memory of Major Cecil Brown, Salvation Army, by Sleepy Valley Community Development Club.
- 8. In loving memory of the Rev. Edgar and Mae Clapp by Marie F. Osteen and Emma Kate O. Davis.
- 9. In memory of our Father and Mother, Steve and Bessie Wills by their Children.
- 10. In loving memory of my parents, George W. and Ada King Corbett, by Maude Corbett Waddell.
- 11. In loving memory of my parents, Green Anderson and Betty Gorrell Waddell by George Ernest "Bill" Waddell.
- 12. In memory of Bonnie Swaney (1909-1957) by the Swaney Family.
- 13. In memory of Ina Lawson by Lucille Gowan.
- 14. In memory of Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Lawson by Everette Lawson.
- 15. In memory of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Lamb, from their daughters, Maggie, Nannie Mae and Dorothy

- 16. In memory of W. Zack and Isabel Lamb Barnett by Lee Barnett.
- 17. In honor of Fred and Hattie Barnett and Claude and Minnie Stills by Neal and Geneva Barnett.
- 18. In memory of Rev. and Mrs. D. P. Lamb by the Fred Barnett Family.
- 19. The Antioch 4-H Club.
- 20. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lawson.
- 21. Mr. and Mrs. Burlin Ricker.

Rev. Turman wanted to further involve young people in the church, so in 1967 he organized a Methodist Youth Fellowship group with young people from all three churches in the Hot Springs Charge. Some of those participating were Judy Swaney, Loretta Barnett, Victor Stills, Veronica Stills, Belinda Strom, Anthony Stills, Wade Strom, Dwaine Strom, Roger Swaney, Linda Swaney, Dwaine Webb, Freddie Barnett, Tommy Rathbone, Billy Webb, Betty Wood, Sammy Barnett, Wayne Wills, Lola Gosnell, Carolyn Wood, Emmalene Webb, and Lloyd Wills.

During Rev. Turman's time, a dispute over property lines developed between Dewey Foster and the Church Trustees. In question was a fence built by Mr. Foster that the Trustees alleged to be on church property. A lawsuit followed, and after a survey the Antioch Church Trustees agreed to build a new 5-strand barbed wire fence on the surveyor's line while Mr. Foster agreed to tear down the fence he had built. In a letter to attorney E. L. Loftin, dated April 25, 1968, Rev. Turman wrote, "With the final agreement which you drew up, I don't think the church will ever again have trouble over the property lines."

Lillian Sexton's Sunday School Class—1960

Pauline Wills Carolyn Wills Jean Gosnell Girty Swaney Alene Swaney Eugene Wills Polly Ellison Kay Strom Elmer Sexton
Lloyd Wills
Wilma Reed
Bernice Reed
Christine Reed
Ed Harris
Ronnie Lawson

Charles Lawson Margie Harris Tommy Barnett Vaughn Barnett Wayne Strom Judy Strom Brenda Bergin

Christmas 1962— "The World is in Bethlehem"

Cast:

Little Girl ~ Polly Ellison

Little Boy ~ Sammy Barnett

Mother ~ Lillian Sexton

Joel ~ Vaughn Barnett

Father ~ Tommy Barnett

Uncle Laban ~ Wayne Strom

Mary ~ Carolyn Wills

Christmas Choir ~ Neal and Geneva Barnett, David Wills, Charles Sawyer, and Pauline Wills

Christmas Music ~ Joy to the World, It Came upon a Midnight Clear, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, O Little Town of Bethlehem, Silent Night

Recitations were given by some of the younger children:

Song of Praise ~ Shirley and Wayne Wills

This Is the Time for Giving ~ Wade Strom

No better Way ~ Linda Swaney

A Perfect Friend ~ Loretta Barnett

A Request ~ Karen and Sharon Foster

Size Does Not Count ~ Roger Swaney, Randall Swaney and Anthony Stills

There Is Love ~ Ronnie Caldwell

If I could See Old Santa Clause ~ Sammy Barnett

Within A Circle ~ Belinda Strom and Veronica Stills

Love Gifts for Jesus ~ Judy Swaney and Shian Swaney

On Fishing ~ Freddie Barnett, Timmy Strom and Victor Stills



Donnie Roberts

Julian Roberts

Jeanette Lawson Nix and her children: Jennifer Hunter, Donnie Roberts, Julian Roberts, Warren Nix



MOVING FORWARD

The 1970s continued Antioch's tradition of hard work and sacrifice. With a new church and new pews, our story continues under the leadership of Rev. Baxter Proffitt.

Information during this time is scarce, but we know Rev. Proffitt had a wife and children, and lived in the church parsonage in Hot Springs. Mrs. Proffitt, a seamstress, had a materials shop in the basement. Rev. Proffitt was a fix-it person, and helped folks keep their lawn mowers, garden tillers, and chain saws in working order. This not only gave the family a little extra income, but more importantly provided the minister and his wife a chance to minister to the community. The Proffitts are still remembered fondly.

The Reverend Baxter Proffitt visiting in the home of Nannie and Clarence Lawson



The next few years brought pastors with their own sets of personal problems and controversies, leaving the church in a bit of a turmoil. The Conference sent Rev. William Haselden in 1978 to try to repair the damage and reunite the community.

Rev. Haselden worked hard as the church participated in the 3rd Saturday-night community sings, Vacation Bible School, and a trip to Six Flags in Atlanta, GA. In the fall there were hayrides, when Neal Barnett borrowed his dad, Fred's, tractor and wagon. Sometimes the ride would continue through "the field" and Upper Shut-In to Bonnie Hill Salvation Army Church where members roasted hot dogs and marshmallows. On the way back, with stomachs full and spirits high, they lifted their voices in song. These were wonderful times to share in God's love together.

During Rev. Haselden's time there were revivals. There were two in 1980, for example, one in February and one in September, with the Rev. Arlin Freshour holding the services.

Homecoming at Antioch is always a grand affair. In his notes the Rev. Haselden discusses the 1980 service, which began on Saturday evening with the Believers Quartet providing the special music. On Sunday Rev. Freshour came back to deliver the message. "Dinner on the Ground" got special mention, as tables and chairs were carried out under the giant shade trees and all the ladies brought covered dishes. There was plenty of food, and the afternoon vibrated with gospel music as the Evangel Quartet led everyone in praise of the Father.

By this time, Fred Barnett was Sunday School Superintendent and Geneva Barnett had taken over the church treasury from Linda Parks Watts, who decided that she didn't have the time it required. Church Trustees were Clarence Lawson, Everett Lawson, and Fred Barnett.

Here is the mid-1970s Sunday school class roll:

Hattie Barnett	Frances Wills	Helen Gosnell
Ethel Harkleroad	Judy Holt	Kate Ricker
Mary Ruth Suttles	Louise Lawson	Bernice Wills

Fred Barnett Edna Fay Webb Clarence Lawson Loretta Barnett Fannie Mae Tino Michael Gentry Sheila Webb Ovella Swaney Hazel Waddell Melva Sexton Eddie Holt **James Lawson** Donna Barnett Melissa Tino Scott Ricker Miranda Suttles Shelby Jean Tino Cynthia Shannon Mary Webb Max Osteen Dolman Gowan Belinda Strom Iulie Tino Iamie Lawson Violet Wills Hazel Swaney Marie Osteen Claude Stills Gary Suttles Jimmy Barnett Sherry Maynard Karol Kennedy Clayton Gosnell

Larry Joe Strickland David Wills Timmy Strom Alma Stills Toni Swaney Cathy Ricker David Shannon Cleo Swanev Lucille Gowan Ieanette Shannon Gerdine Gentry Bruce Chandler Lola Gosnell Brent Stills Billy Joe Ellison Willie Shannon Verner Wills Shian Lamb Bertha Wills Roger Whitson Joe Shipley Delmar Swaney Jimmy Ellison Sammy Barnett Carolyn Gentry Geneva Strom Geneva Barnett Hunter Tino **Junior Lamb** Debbie Strom Donna Strom Wade Strom

Mary Ruth Swaney Virgil Foster Linda Parks Stevie Strom Lynn Shannon Dwaine Strom Frances Strom Ruby Church Wanda Strickland Ron Lickliter Donnie Strom Reggie Watts Patricia Ellison Lisa Carter Roger Ricker Maude Wills Kate Church Isabel Maynard Neal Barnett Berlin Ricker Nora Lee Parks Diane Wills Dale Gentry Darrell Ricker Aileen Reed Kay Chandler Winnie Broglin Jerry Shannon Eugene Wills Nathan Tino Jimmy Shannon Vickie Wills

The year 1981 brought the Rev. Harry Wing. Rev. Wing worked on his education while serving as full-time pastor to the three Hot Springs churches. In 1983 he wrote, "Antioch Church is holding its own as far as attendance and program is concerned. The past year we have had a week of revival meetings, with many people coming to the altar to rededicate their lives and to confess misdeeds and seek forgiveness from the Lord." He added, "We have taken in two new members by profession of faith and have baptized both."

Apparently, many of Rev. Wing's daylight hours were spent visiting the sick and shut-in in the community. In his summation he stated that the future of Antioch Church would remain at the same level, unless there was a great influx of people wanting to be part of the church family.

Bob Miller was the next leader, and again information is scarce. Miller was a young pastor with a family, and made several entries in the membership book as he brought it up to date.

Wyllene Skipper came to Antioch from the Salvation Army Church. She joined the Methodist Church and became the adult Sunday School teacher. "Ms. Skipper," as she was known, was a talented person who could sing and play the piano, besides knowing a lot about the Bible. She was a great asset, always willing to work hard and jump into projects. In 1986 she became the new pastor.

Rev. Skipper worked to be a good leader, visiting folks at home, in the tomato field, or wherever she ran into them. She always took the opportunity to witness her faith.

Around the same time Leslie Broglin began to play piano. Rev. Skipper always encouraged her and helped organize a group of young people (as well as adults) to go to area churches on the 3rd Saturday night to sing.

Rev. Skipper also helped the young people raise money for trips. On one occasion she borrowed Wayne Broglin's van to take a group to Winston-Salem, Chapel Hill, and Raleigh—the first time that most in the group had visited their state capitol. They also visited the Planetarium to see the Christmas Stars. On another occasion, she led a group to her brother's vacation camp in Georgetown, SC, where they stayed a week at no expense. This included tours of Charleston and Myrtle Beach—another first for many of the kids. The last trip was to Nashville, TN and the Grand Ole Opry.

Rev. Skipper had two good years and then things fell apart. To quote from her State of the Church account, "The past year at Antioch has been a mixture of joys and sorrows, but I shall not dwell on the unpleasantries." She talks about her successes with church membership, youth, and community service, concluding, "The spiritual condition of Antioch seems to be at a low ebb at the present time, but I feel that we can turn the situation around by not dwelling on the past, [uniting] ourselves in love for one another, and [working] toward a brighter future."

Rev. Rosco Garris and his wife Vera arrived in 1989. Garris, a retired chaplain from the Veteran's Hospital, was very personable. He and Vera spent weekends in the parsonage. Saturday morning was visiting time, as they faithfully visited the elderly and sick people in the community. Garris added several names to the membership roll and conducted baptisms in the French Broad River.

About this time Fred Barnett became ill and could no longer serve as Sunday School Superintendent. John Lamb, Jr., was elected to take his place. He worked hard during his time, making improvements to the church and inviting people to worship.

After "Junior" resigned as Superintendent, members elected Neal Barnett. Neal, a wonderful song leader, had a voice that could pitch a song so well that the congregation could sing whether there was music or not.

In the 1990s Jimmy Barnett married Donna Glisson, who began attending our church. She had spent time studying God's

word and graciously consented to teach the adult Sunday School class. As a schoolteacher, she brought organization to the class, working hard to get everyone to share in the lesson. She was also an accomplished singer.

In the middle of 1994 the Conference decided to move Rev. Garris. The Conference assigned John Roby for a short time, then Rev. Elgin Nichols, another retired minister, served until the District Conference met in June.

July 1995 brought Willis Pruett, Antioch's most recent pastor. He served as a lay speaker in his home church before becoming a local pastor and being assigned to Antioch. Will owns a computer company, and came with a strong business sense as well as a desire to spread God's word. He helped acquire grants to put a new roof on the building and dig a new well.

As Antioch has always lacked for finances, Frances Strom and Isabel Maynard decided to open a rummage sale in their dad's vacant store building. The community has been very supportive, donating merchandise as well as shopping there. Other groups and organizations also donate items; the Senior Center in White Pine, TN, has been a big contributor. Frances is a master of homemade fudge, and customers look forward to buying it as much as they look forward to finding treasures. (Over time this rummage sale has become known as "Rummy World.")

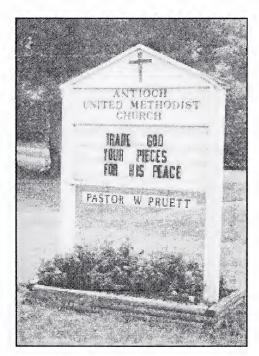
Marie Lawson has also helped raise money. As a great organizer, people say, "Yes" to her requests whether they really want to help or not. On most "Rummy World" days, Marie and her crew (Amanda Cutshall, Geneva Barnett, Jeanette Nix, Violet Wills, and Winnie Broglin) offer what have become known as "the best church hot dogs around."

There was no official superintendent for some time after Neal Barnett's unexpected death. His son Jimmy would start each service, and later Eugene Lawson served for a year. When Jimmy and Donna moved from the community, Antioch was left with no official leader and no adult Sunday School teacher.

But once again, God blessed the church with capable people willing to work and serve wherever there was a need. Isabel Maynard unofficially assumed the role of superintendent, and Marie Lawson (who had taught teenagers' Sunday School with Diane Barnett) took over the adult Sunday School. She uses a study guide as reference material, but teaches straight from the "Word of God." This has been a great incentive for those who have not always been diligent in reading the Bible. Marie's teaching style has inspired members to spend more time in reading and prayerful meditation, discerning for themselves what "Thus saith the Lord" in order to discuss it with her in class.

The church has been without a regular piano player ever since Leslie Broglin married and moved out of the community. Later it was revealed that her sister Shelly could play also—a secret well-kept, even from her mother. Shelly provided music when she was home from college, especially during the summer months.

Antioch is also blessed to have Sherry Frisbee in its midst. Sherry prepares a financial report each month, so that anyone interested may see how much money we have and how it is being spent. She has also conducted the Christmas play for the last several years, handling everything from choosing the play to organizing the practices.



Rev. Pruett's Farewell Letter

Along The Way Philippians 1:3-11

Dear Friends:

I never dreamed when I was appointed to the Madison Charge on July 1, 1995 as a Methodist Minister what was in store! What a blessed (& challenging) seven years I have had—more blessed than challenging! You welcomed me into your church families & you welcomed me into your hearts. For that I will be ever grateful.

I came here as your Pastor & was content to remain that way, but God does not allow us to soak in our comfort zones for long. Thank you for supporting me as I was faithful to God's call to move in different areas of ministry. It is hard to believe where he has led me—I could not have done it had it not been for so many of you who prayed, supported, and loved me along the way.

My memories of my time on the Charge are rich & I am grateful. My prayer upon arriving was that I be a witness to God & a blessing to others. I believe that was turned around - as YOU witnessed to me & blessed me mightily! I can only humbly pray that I was able to witness to you & touch your lives in some small way.

I do ask that you forgive me for the things I may have let you down on or the things that didn't go as you had hoped they might have. My prayer is for the ability to learn from the past & apply that to the future—including receiving one another's blessing, forgiveness, & affirmation to forge ahead in the direction God leads.

The four UMC's are/were wonderful churches—each a great place to be a part of the family of God. I am grateful for the opportunity to have been among you & to have been a part of your families. THANK YOU for allowing me to be a small part of your lives these past seven years. May God bless you and keep you as you continue to be faithful to His calling for each church. Please continue to pray for me, just as I will continue to pray for you. I celebrate having been among you—I will miss you, but will move on & be faithful to the calling God has placed in my life. I love you & pray God's blessings upon you.

-Rev Will Pruett

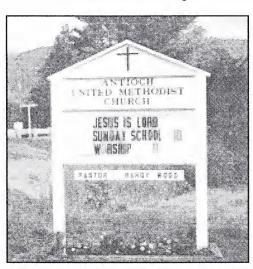
THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

In October 2001, Isabel Maynard officially accepted the title of Superintendent, and she and Jeanette Nix are serving as song leaders. Isabel's granddaughters, Sierra and Ariel Frisbee, have also taken active roles—Sierra by learning piano and providing music, and Ariel by faithfully leading the responsive readings. Geneva Barnett teaches the children's class, and Diane Barnett teaches the young people. Delmar Swaney and Vickie Wills English keep the secretaries report and take the offering each Sunday.

Will Pruett served faithfully for seven years, until January 2002 brought serious illness. Will had two valves replaced in

his heart, and will continue to need our prayers as he recovers. He officially transferred to an Asheville church (closer to his home) in July 2002.

Antioch is now on the threshold of another transition. A new District Superintendent has taken an interest in us, feeling that we have the potential to grow in numbers



as well as spirit. She has been providing a guest pastor each Sunday, though we are also fortunate to have Randy Wood living in our community. He is a committed Christian who has led several services, with numbers seeming to grow each time he speaks. Has God sent this person to lead us, Mrs. Superintendent?

These are the faithful people who still attend services at Antioch:

Frances Barnett Winnie Broglin Isabel Maynard Warren Nix Shelly Broglin **Ieanette Nix** Sierra Frisbee Lynn Frisbee Sherry Frisbee Ariel Frisbee Geneva Barnett Freddie Barnett Delmar Swaney Ovella Swanev Diane Barnett Larry Patterson Toni Patterson Shian Lamb Amanda Cutshall Violet Wills Cassie Lamb Frances Wills Marcie Lamb Crystal Brown Carolyn Gentry Jamie Brown Lewis Gosnell Vickie English Eugene Lawson Marie Lawson Marvin Haggins Ira Adams Margarett Ann Haggins David Lawson April Adams Gary Suttles Hardin Wrenn Mary Ruth Suttles Iim Wrenn Barbara Wrenn Judy Wrenn Donna Barnett Missy Wood Randy Wood **Justin Wood** Colby Wood Jennifer Hunter Tucker Hunter Chance Hunter Sarah Stribbling Tracey Moore Felicia Moore

Sunday morning worship service has an average of twenty on most Sundays, and our numbers are growing. As of July, 2002 Randy Wood is our lay speaker each Sunday morning. God is good to us!

SNAPSHOTS OF OUR HISTORY

DO YOU REMEMBER?

- The men sat in the front and women in the back.
- Elizabeth Lamb joined Antioch Church and continued to support the church through her tithes, even after she moved from the community, until she passed away.
- Lucille Gowan is the oldest living member today—she joined the church in 1922.
- Men's and women's Sunday school classes were separated.
- Going to Bonnie Hill for the Christmas play. The Salvation Army gave all children a Christmas gift.
- Tent revivals in the churchyard.
- Softball games on Sunday afternoon.
- Homecoming, all day singings and dinner on the ground.
- Can you hear the church bell ring?
- Hattie Barnett teaching, singing and praying.
- Easter egg hunts on the church lawn the Saturday before Easter.
- Hayrides and wiener roasts, sometimes with Neal Barnett driving Fred's tractor, sometimes with Murmon Holt and his tractor going to Bonnie Hill church in Upper Shut-In.
- Eugene Wills coming home from the army. He had a CAR!
- Sawyer Family Singers with Dorothy at the piano.
- Vinnie Sawyer kept the Secretary's report.
- Working to raise money and the manual labor to build our new church building.

- Frances Strom staining the ceilings in the new class rooms.
- Can you hear Claude Stills pray?
- Going to the third Saturday night sings, especially at Bonnie Hill in the old log church with their wood burning stove.
- The Barnett Trio: Isabel, Fred, and Neal sang; Mattie Ray Lawson played the piano
- Stevie Strom playing the piano.
- Shopping at Hattie Barnett's rummage sale in her basement.
- Fred, Neal, and Geneva Barnett singing and Eugene Lawson playing the guitar.
- Ron Lickliter playing the piano, teaching and organizing the Christmas program "The Singing Christmas Tree."
- Loretta Barnett playing the piano.
- The Christmas play on Christmas Eve. Fred Barnett making sure everyone had a treat "poke" to take home.
- Verner Wills teaching the young people's Sunday school class.
- 4-H sponsored by Neal and Geneva Barnett.
- Roller skating and bowling in Newport, TN.
- Bake sales and hot dog sales to raise money for something special.
- Hiking on the Appalachian Trail from Rich Mountain or Mills Ridge.
- Pauline Stills keeping the secretary's book.
- Eugene Wills, Dolmon Gowan and Clydes Swaney sat on the second pew from the front.
- Eugene Wills would request to sing "Jesus Hold My Hand."
- Minnie Green teaching and praying.
- Fred Barnett always wanted Sunday School to start at exactly ten o'clock. He was also ready to go home by noon.
- David Wills, Junior Lamb, Clydes Swaney and Dolmon Gowan refinished the old piano.

- Singing "I'll Fly Away," "Heaven's Jubilee," and "Victory In Jesus."
- Wyllene Skipper teaching and preaching and admonishing everyone to "Read your Bible so that you may discern for yourself what ...thus saith the Lord."
- David and Fran Wills taking care of the flower fund and sending flowers when someone was sick or passed away.
- Can you hear Geneva Barnett pray?
- Stephanie Swaney loved to sing "On the Jericho Road."
- Can you hear Neal Barnett's deep rich voice singing?
- David Wills loved music and singing.
- Ms. Skipper's youth group: Brent Stills, Brian Chandler, B.J. Chandler, Chris Sams, Heather Sams, Leslie Broglin, Shelly Broglin, April Adams, Ira Adams. These folks had Bible study together and went to area churches to sing.
- Ariel Frisbee singing "Amazing Grace."
- Vickie Wills English has not missed a Sunday in thirty-six years, from the time she was seven years old.



1970s SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children 1st row: Donna Strom, Stevie Strom, Nathan Tino Jimmy Barnett,, Dale Gentry, Delmar Swaney, Fannie Mae Tino
2nd row: Patsy Swaney, Veronica Stills, Shian Swaney, Loretta Barnett, Belinda Strom,, Nora Lee Parks, Shirley Wills, Donna Barnett
Adults 3rd row: Diane Wills, Alene Reed, Ethel Harkleroad Ovella Swaney, Geneva Barnett, Shelby Jean Tino, Fred Barnett, Alonzo Wills, Bud Lawson, David Wills
4th row: Cleo Swaney,,,

Antioch Traditions

by Winnie Broglin

For many years, the first Sunday in June has been the time to decorate the graves at Antioch Cemetery. Past years would find a crowd of people gathered to put flowers on the graves of loved ones, to visit with each other, and to listen to a message and special singing. Now, as with many older traditions, these gatherings have dwindled as people bring their flowers on Saturday afternoon without returning on Sunday.

Another gathering day is the second Sunday in September, when Antioch Homecoming is held. This used to be an entire weekend celebration with special singing and preaching, but is now limited to Sunday. On this day we have special music during the worship hour and a covered dish lunch on the grounds under the big shade trees.

There is plenty of planning and cooking on the days before Homecoming Sunday. Some folks have created a tradition with the foods that they prepare. People look forward to Isabel Maynard's venison barbeque and her pound cake, Glen Barnett's lasagna, and Frances Strom's homemade chocolate pies. Mike Maynard and Vaughn Barnett always bring cold drinks, and homecoming would not be the same without Ann Strom's yeast rolls.

These are things you can anticipate if you come to this year's homecoming, but memories of the past still linger near. I could not write about the food at homecoming and not remember my Aunt Maude Wills and her chicken and dumplings. Aunt Maude kept chickens in her yard, and several weeks before the

appointed day she would begin surveying the area for the nicest, and fattest hen. Once she had chosen a particular chicken, its fate was sealed. Everyone looked forward to her dumplingsespecially the Waddell men, as they would ask about them just to be sure they were still on the menu.

Aunt Maude passed away in 1998. We will always remember her chicken and dumplings at homecoming, but she will be remembered most as a person who strived to live a life pleasing to God.



Maude Briggs Wills 06-13-1909 ~ 03-19-1998

Christmas in a Country Church

When memories of past Christmases flood my soul, my thoughts go back to the church I attended when I was growing up. It was a small, white Methodist church nestled among a grove of age-old oak trees. There was a steeple which housed a bell that rang out on Sunday.

People entered the sanctuary by wide, steep steps that had handrails for older people to hold onto. Youngsters, who were always in a hurry to go home, could mount at the top and slide down. Double doors led into one large room with about sixteen long benches. These had once been polished and pretty, but had been worn slick by so much sliding in and out on during years of use. A raised altar was circled by a communion rail. On the lectern was a large open Bible from which the scripture lessons were read.

This brings to mind a verse from the book of Luke that was a favorite of my Uncle Charlie, who was the Sunday school superintendent for many years. It read: "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Somehow, I still find these words comforting.

This was the church that had served four generations of my family-baptisms through last rites. It was a place I loved and served until I was about eighteen and left home to go to school. So, it was natural that when Christmas came I would be involved in all the goings-on. My oldest sister, Ina, always seemed to get

the job of preparing a program, and where she was involved, it was my pleasure to help.

Around the first Sunday in December, classes drew names for a gift exchange. Every child who wanted to participate in the church Christmas program was invited to do so. This meant that every Saturday there were rehearsals. The adults usually put on a skit, too. For practice, we met in homes, making it a social event. This was more enjoyable for the young adults if a favorite beau happened to be involved in the program.

Decorating the church was a big job. Ina and some friends and I would gather galax, pine, and holly, making a wreath for each of the tall windows in the church. Since we didn't have electricity, all the lamps had to be filled with oil and their globes washed. They looked so pretty with their shiny, tin reflectors and filled the church with a soft, shimmering light. This scene is permanently engraved in my memory.

As if we didn't have enough to do, a goody bag was filled for each member of our Sunday school, plus extras for any children who might show up. Each bag contained an orange, and apple, stick candy, chocolate drops, and a few nuts. As I look back on this, I know we prepared treats for children who might not have had anything otherwise.

By Christmas Eve, the church was toasty warm from the big pot-bellied wood-burning stove that stood up front. Those who were in the program came early to get dressed for their part. Since we didn't have permanent curtains, a wire was stretched across the room and a curtain was made from sheets. We also made costumes from old sheets for our littlest angels, trimming them with tinsel. With a halo, they did look pretty angelic.

On the program, the children always sang "Away in a Manger" as they gathered around a nativity scene. The congregation ended the program by singing "Silent Night." The children could hardly wait to get their gifts and treats. What a joy this was for those of us who had worked so hard to make this night special.

I must not forget decorating the tree for all this pageantry. Men from the church went out and cut the biggest cedar tree they could find. A tree-top star was made from cardboard, covered with tinfoil and edged with tinsel. Year after year the same two-inch green and red paper roping was woven in and out among the branches. Other decorations were icicles, strings of popcorn and tinsel. Since we had no electricity for lights, these things had to do. We liked it just as much as if it had been the best-decorated tree in the world.

There is a closeness that comes from working in the church that binds people in a community together, perhaps as nothing else could do. More than this, it conditions the memory never to forget the things that are most important to us throughout our lifetime.

These are memories from the past that I choose to recall because the church I have described has been torn down and replaced by a larger, modern, brick church.

I have gone back to this church a few times when I was home to visit my two remaining sisters, but it will never be the same as I remember from my childhood when everything seemed bigger and better than it really was.

Contributed by Alma Campbell

A Remembrance

I started going to Antioch Church over fifty years ago. I moved to North Carolina on November 18, 1947, when I was eleven years old. The evening we moved into our new home I met Jack Shipley. On Saturday evening, November 21, his daughters Ruby, Ada Mae, and Louise came to visit. They invited me to come to their church on Sunday morning.

Sunday morning, November 22, 1947 was the first time I attended Antioch Church. That was a long time ago. This was before the new church was built and services were held in the old white church building.

I have raised four children in Antioch and three of them still attend. I have grandchildren and a great grandchild who also go to Antioch. We have been blessed to live to see the new church built so that we have a beautiful place to worship.

Contributed by Ovella Green Swaney

A Tribute to Charles Thomas Lawson

Charles Thomas Lawson (Uncle Charlie or Chirp) was a very religious man. I never knew him, only the things I heard about him. He served as Sunday School Superintendent at Antioch Methodist Church for thirty-six years. This speaks for itself. This was in the days when a man was considered a good man by the way he lived his everyday life, not by how much money he had. Popularity wasn't the issue at all. The members thought that he was the man who could and would do the job with sincerity.

Like many others, he farmed to make a living and depended on God. He knew pain, grief and sorrow. Life was not easy in his day, and he lost a son and two granddaughters. He had a good head for business and handled his affairs well. I'm sure he had people who didn't like him, but that is a fact of life that we all deal with. He was a man who prayed and wasn't ashamed of it. The family members can all vouch for this. I have never heard anything other than he was a very good man who served his God and loved Him.

One day as he was riding home on his mule, it was spooked by a turtle and threw him, catching his foot in the trace chains. He was dragged to death before the mule could be stopped. He now rests in peace with the God whom he served and is through with the troubles of this life.

Today, there are very few men around like him. He prayed and gave thanks for his food. Many people are ashamed to bow their head and say Grace before they eat a meal. I wish there were more people around today like Uncle Charlie. It would make a difference.

A Memory of Lee Paige Barnett

Lee Paige Barnett was born in 1901 at Paint Rock, Madison County North Carolina. He was one of several children born to Zack and Isabel Lamb Barnett. Lee was educated in the small community school, Walnut High School (at that time a boy's home), Weaverville College and finally received his doctors' degree from Duke Divinity. Education was very important to him and he used every opportunity to encourage young people to continue their education.

At an early age Uncle Lee gave his heart and his life to Christ, his desire being to become a minister. He achieved his goal and became pastor of several Methodist Churches. He never lost his love for his home church family and proved to be instrumental in securing funds in the building of the new Antioch Church. Uncle Lee always made it a point to come home in September for the annual church homecoming. He always spoke to the congregation of God's love for us and encouraged us to keep the faith and to continue in our work for Christ.

I spent time talking with Uncle Lee, seeking his guidance and wisdom about faith and spiritual concerns. He always told me that different people will have different views concerning their personal walk with Christ. He always said, "Let your conscious be your guide, but keep in mind that you can condition that conscious."

Uncle Lee passed away in October 1993, but September saw him at Antioch Homecoming still striving to build up his first church family.

Contributed by Isabel Maynard

In Memory and Honor of My Parents: Fred and Hattie Barnett

My father and mother always worked at Antioch United Methodist Church. Mother taught Sunday School classes for small children and adult women until she could no longer come to church.

Daddy was Sunday School Superintendent for thirty years until he lost his health and he had to retire.

I remember when the old church was torn down and the bell had to be removed. Mother was very concerned because we had no bell on the new church. She started a yard sale in her basement until she had enough money to hire someone to build a bell tower and put the bell back up. Now everyone could hear the bell ring once again on Sunday mornings.

I joined the church when I was ten years old in 1937 and I am still faithful to God and the church. Like my mother, my sister and I are still selling things for the church at what has become known as "Rummy World."

Contributed by Frances Barnett Strom

A Tribute to Clarence Lawson

Clarence Lawson was the kind of man who lived his religion every day. His God and family came first in his life. He worked hard and long hours in a time when there was little money to be had. He was a skilled carpenter and stone mason who built many homes and other buildings that are still standing today, such as the Salvation Army Church, a local store, and the jail in Hot Springs.

Clarence was a kind and gentle person with adults, children and his animals. He knew how to doctor them if they needed care. When his horse got out, all he had to do was whistle and the horse would come running to him. Clarence made a big impression on my life at a very early age. He made visitors welcome in his home. If they stayed for a meal he would always ask the Lord's blessing before anyone ate.

In my eyes, Clarence was a role model; I wanted to be like him. All the children loved him. He had a lot of influence on the lives of those around him. He always went to church and didn't speak against other people, regardless of how they lived.

Good gospel music was one of his favorite things in life. He sang in the family quartet, and he was a good musician and singer himself. He had a way of mixing a little fun in the hard work, telling about funny things that happened. I think this world would be a better place today if there were more people like him.

Contributed by Harold Miller The Lawson Family

In Memory of:

Walter & Martha Sawyer Claude & Dorothy Sawyer

The memory I hold dear about Mom and Dad is that they both loved and served the Lord. They sat up with the sick in the community and helped out any way that they could. Their son and daughter-in-law, Claude and Dorothy, were well known in the community for their singing at funerals. They never turned anyone down who asked them to sing. To me, Walter, Martha, Claude, and Dorothy were four special people whom I loved very dearly.

Contributed by Vinnie Sawyer Ball

Walter and Martha Sawyer



Claude and Dorothy Sawyer



In Memory of My Father-in-Law: **Neal Barnett**

I want to thank God for putting Neal in my life. He helped guide me over the years and helped me grow in my walk with the Lord. Listening to him talk about his life growing up, watching his family in their everyday lives, and seeing how strong they were in their walk with God was an inspiration to me as a new Christian. I hope he knew what he meant to me, and how much I admired and respected him. I think of him often during my days and miss him very much. He is loved very deeply.

Contributed by Diana Barnett (daughter-in-law)

In Memory of My Grandparents: Clifford & Minnie Ellison Green

May 26, 1908–December 14, 1994 April 20, 1920–April 14, 2000

Mamaw and Papaw were the foundation of my faith. My faith is a gift from God, but my understanding began with Mamaw and Papaw. My Mamaw told me the day she and Papaw got married they started their life together down on their knees in prayer.

As a child, I spent lots of nights in their home. You always knew when it was bedtime because you could hear Mamaw and Papaw lifting up praises and prayers to God. They prayed for their family daily. They worked hard and lived a modest life, but their door was always open to share God and a meal with you. The last words Mamaw spoke were to Jesus. We will miss her to talk with, but the example she left for us lives on. We know that through our faith in Jesus and forgiveness of sins we will one day see them again.

Thank you God for my grandparents. They did a good job here and I know their reward is Heaven. Let's keep the family tradition going by praying for one another daily.

Contributed by Shian Swaney Lamb



Clifford and Minnie celebrating their fiftieth wedding anniversay

Gospel Singing Now Growing in East Tennessee and Western North Carolina

Sunday afternoon, April 13 was very beautiful and the Antioch Church near Hot Springs was well filled; and to our surprise about half of the attendance were teenagers. Not only did they sing in a class, but sang in quartets and duets. Yes, we believe that more and more young folks are getting interested in Gospel Singing.

The conventions present were Cocke County, TN., singers from the Smokey Mountain Convention, Sevier County Convention, Bogard and Green County, Union Singing Convention and West Madison, NC, where the singing was held. Singings are a lot like the Armed Forces—one branch of service or one church cannot do much by itself, but combine them and see the force you get! We will have to admit that there was a higher number of teenagers at this convention than have been at any others.

Rev. Ray Woodby, pastor of the Church of God near there is the president and took charge of the singing. He kept it going as fast as possible, but was unable to get all request numbers on the two hours. Before this year, they could finish in one and one-half hours. The service began with a prayer by Rev. Pat Davis. Song leaders were Thilmon Gregg, Horace McCarter, Carl McCarter, Wilber Bradley, Ernest Byrd, Fletcher Ford, Newton Ogle, and Burlson McGaha, the Barnett trio, NC; Sawyer Duet, NC; Rev. Pat Davis and choir from Pine Springs, Green County, TN., the Cocke County quartet, Rev. Ray Woody sang a solo and played his accordion. The Smokey Mountain quar-

tet with Bill Finchum, Isabel Barnett, Carl McGaha and Ernest Byrd. The Rev. Mr. Clapp sang a solo and accompanied himself on the piano.

If sickness is in the home, as it is at Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Wilson's, two of the Cocke County Quartet, members of the other conventions will fill-in for them. Miss Isabel Barnett, an alto singer, sang in most of the quartets, as her part was missing and it's worth a trip to hear this young lady, yet a teenager, sing. One man, Mr. Newton Ogle, came from Gatlinburg and is one of out best leaders. It shows how far people will come to enjoy an afternoon of fine singing. The Rev. Mr. Clapp closed the convention with a prayer.

Contributed by Mrs. Harlan Butler to the *Plain Talk & Tribune* Newport TN 1958

MEMBERSHIP REGISTER ANTIOCH METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH—1800s

* Denotes missing date		1872	David P. Lamb J. Frank Richmond
1842 1844 1852 1857 1858	J	1873	Elizabeth Scism M. M. Lamb Jenney D. Richmond M. G. Hipps J. A. Lamb J. A. Ray Harriett E. Ray
1864	Nannie A. Ray George F. Wells Lewis Click Sarah Click		Sarah J. Lamb Julie Green Mrs. M. E. Good Nannie E. Sloop
1867	David Click * Daniel Click Zack W. Morris	1877	A. W. Freshour Susan A. Sanders Willy L. Ray A. E. Ray Lillie L. Scism Bessie A. Wells
1868	Mary M. Lamb Emma Harkleroad Benjamin F. Lamb Mary J. Chockley * Ed Chockley John A. Church	1878	Laura A. Wells Gardiner * T. A. Gorrell Laura Sigmond Josephene Blackwell Altha W. Freshour Zack Blackwell
1869	Sarah Garrett Sarah Lackey * Lizzie Williams * John F. Roberts John P. Wells Hamabketh L. Church	1879	Catherine E. Church Williams Bettie J. Gorrell Robert H. Wells Tennessee Gorrell Lawson

	Carrie S. Wells Fielding Lawson * M.E. Lawson Emma Allen * E.S. Lamb		Virginia Mace * Sarah L. Roberts L.C. Hipps Evea Lamb John Click
	* Barney Lawson		Mary E. Lamb
	Mooneyham	1887	Sarah Pesterson
	* Nancy Lawson Tarlton		Emily Lamb
	* L.C. Sigamon		Eveline Cummings
	M.E. Good		* C. Waddell
	Susan Lawson		David E. Sigmond
	McAnally Rogers		Rachel Elizabeth Price
	Susan E. Rogers		Hannah E. Miller
	James M. Waddell		John B. Price
1880	Emma Church	1888	Newton Pesterson
	Emmaline Morris		Mary E. Parton
	Elizabeth Williams		James D. Wills
	Mary Campbell	1889	Martha J. Wills
1883	Marie Isabel Lamb		Polly Ann Margaret
	* Libby Lamb		Wills Swaney
	* Eva Lamb		John W.C. Lamb
	Nathan S. Lamb		Charles W. Church
	John N. Lamb		Mattie S. Church
	* J.D. Wills		F.A. Viares
	Thomas H. Lamb		Adaline Lawson
	Issac H. Lamb		Mary A. Lawson
	Sarah A. Lamb		Ellen D. Lamb
	Elizabeth Lamb		Elbert J. Lamb
	Sarah E. J. Lamb		Nancy M. Lamb
1886	Carrie A. Waddell		William R. Lamb
	Maggie Rogers		Eliza Lamb
	Sallie G. Rogers		Pardu Lamb
	Hester E.R. Lamb		Martha Morris
	* N. Asberry Lawson		James Harkleroad
	* Susan Lawson		

1890 Josiah Ward

Sally Ward

Marth E. Reynolds

Mary E. Ward

Annie L. Ward Lamb

Etta Rogers

Alice Lamb

1891 Emma L. Ebbs

Minnie E. Ward

Emma L. Wills

Mary E. Church

Charles T. Lawson

Susan J. Lamb

Lou C. Lawson

John R. Lamb

Maggie Allen

Maggie M. Blanchard

Martha E. Mann

Mary Lawson

1898 Iennie Roberts

Bettie Harkleroad

Steve Wills

Bettie Waddell

Maggie E. Harkleroad

Nora L. Harkleroad

MEMBERSHIP REGISTER ANTIOCH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1900s

* Denotes missing date				
4000	W. J. Cl. 11		Marion Lawson	
1900	Walter Chockley		Donald Lawson	
	Bessie Wills		Jesse M. Lawson	
	Benjamin F. Wills		Leslie Gardiner	
	Will M. Swaney		Swann Waddell	
,	Ida M. Freshour		Iceam Church	
1901	Nannie H. Lawson		Howard Church	
1905	Floyd Waddell		Hettie Smelcer	
	Edgar Church		Christine Ricker	
	Nita Church		Irene Church Reeves	
	Lora Waddell	1915	Pearl W. Roberts Shipley	
	Jesse Roberts		Ruth Gardner Ellenburg	
	Maude Roberts		Fred Stephens	
	Margie Lamb	1916	Ailene Harkleroad Reed	
	Henery Lawson		Sallie Church	
	Vernon L. Church		Hattie Church	
1908	Edd Lamb	1917	Luther Waddell	
	Allie L. Church		Earnest Waddell	
	Annie Lawson		Green Waddell, Jr.	
	J.W.C. Lamb		Lee Barnett	
	Walter Almany		Fred Barnett	
	Fannie Owenby		Nettie Lawson	
	Dorothy Stephens	1922	Kate Church	
	Laura Stephens		Lucille Lawson Gowan	
	J. Frank Roberts		Ina Lawson	
	Emmitt G. Harkleroad		Ethel Harkleroad	
	Henry Harkleroad		Beatrice Smelcer	
	Mary Lamb		Daisy Smelcer	
1909	Dora Ricker		Nell E. Church Huff	
	Carson S. Lawson		Pauline S. Church Lewis	

1923	Melva Swaney Sexton Sarah Ann Thomas Nannie Mae Almany Ben Harkleroad Grant Reed Alva F. Freshour George W. Stephens Clarence M. Lawson Sadie G. Lawson Carrie Lee Lawson Owens Stella Octavia Lawson		Helen Lawson Lucile McMurtry Margaret McMurtry Zannie Church Willis Wesley Pendland Joe Wood Lora Church Burnett Wills Nannie Lawson * Elizabeth Lamb * Hazel Lamb * Margaret Lamb
	Shelton	1935	Lillie Wills (Mrs. Doc)
	Nellie Mae Stephens		Violet Wills Plemmons
1924	Clarence F. Stephens		Annie Mae Wills
	Cecil Lawson		Lorene Wills
	Henry C. Wood		Katherine Gown Lawson
	Nellie Wood Plemmons		Maggie Gown
	David E. Lawson		Mabel Lawson Konopka
1929	Lois Church Moore		Alma Lawson
	Elbert Angel		Pauline Lawson
	Edith M. Lawson Miller		Minnie Miller Tweed
	Hubert Lamb		Eulah Ralston
1930	Ethel Church		Katherine Harkleroad
	Lucy Church	1936	Frances Barnett Strom
	John Garrett		Wilma Lawson Johnson
	Ruby Lamb		Hugh B. Lance
	Gladys Harkleroad		Mrs. Hugh B. Lance
	Cassell	1937	Bruce Cassell
	Ruel Lawson		Hugh Stephens
	Wallace Stephens	1940	Jeanette Chockley
	Lena Church	1941	Evelyn Spratt Chockley
1001	Harsey Thomas Maynard		Lora Spratt
1931	Carl Almany		Edward Spratt
	Maurice Almany		Jack Spratt

1950

1943 Edna Ruth Gentry Morris Kathleen Waddell Violet Marie Wills Ida Ruth Wood 1947 Elzie K. Lovin

Emma Fitzgerald

REGISTER OF BAPTISMS ANTIOCH METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH 1930s

1940 Jeanette Chockley and Harry Eugene Lanning

REGISTER OF MARRIAGES

February 5, 1931	Ralph Sawyer and Lucy Church
May 26, 1931	Theodore Maynard and Harsey Thomas
July 23, 1931	McKinley Sexton and Margaret Swaney
December 23, 1936	Dewey Wills and Verner Garrett
January 6, 1937	Hubert Gentry and Bertie Roberts
February 21, 1937	Iames Leon Cook and Fave L. Randall

MEMBERSHIP REGISTER ANTIOCH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1950s

1953	Neal Barnett	1982	Shirley Jean Brooks
	Geneva Barnett		Bruce Chandler
	Mae Shipley		Bernard Gosnell
	Hattie Suttles		Marie Lawson
	Mrs. W.R. Gowan	1983	Jimmy Ray Barnett
	Jeanette Lawson		Robert Delmar Swaney
	Eugene Lawson	1984	Teresa Dixon
	Juanita Lawson		Hunter Tino
	Everett Lawson (Bud)		Shelby Jean Tino
	James Edward Lawson		Mary Webb
	Louise Lawson	1985	Jeanne Miller
1958	Bill Stanley	1986	Richard Waltz
1961	Barbara Sue Dalton		Ruth Waltz
	Joan Dalton	1987	Winnie Wills Broglin
	Carolyn Ruth Wills		Kay Strom Chandler
	Pauline Wills		Barbara Suttles Wrenn
	Lillian Sexton		James Wrenn
	Girty Mae Swaney		Hardin Wrenn
1966	B.Y. Owensby		Brian Chandler
	Fletcher Swaney	1989	Thurman Harp
1967	Belinda Strom		Karen Harp
	Loretta Barnett	1990	Freddie Barnett
	Helen Gosnell		Diane Barnett
1970	Linda Susan Parks	1992	Isabel Barnett Maynard
1979	Charles Max Osteen		
	Marie Foster Osteen		
	Debra Wilson Strom		
	Judy Strom Sams Wrenn	l	
	Carolyn Wyllene Skipper	•	
1981	Harry Wing		

REGISTER OF BAPTISMS ANTIOCH METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH 1950s

1953	Neal Barnett	1984	Teresa Dixon
	Geneva Barnett	1987	Winnie Wills Broglin
	Jeanette Lawson		Brian Chandler
	Eugene Lawson		Kay Strom Chandler
	Everette Lawson (Bud)		Barbara Wrenn
	Mae Shipley	1990	John Henry Lamb, Jr.
1961	Barbara Sue Dalton		Dolman Gowan
	Joan Dalton		David Wills
	James Edward Lawson	1991	Clydes Swaney
	Louise Lawson		Chris Swaney
	Girty Mae Swaney		Stephanie Swaney
	Carolyn Ruth Wills		Judy Holt
	Pauline Wills		Alene Swaney Hagan
1970	Linda Susan Parks		Julie Tino
1979	Debra Wilson Strom	1992	Isabell Barnett Maynard
1982	Bernard Gosnell	2001	Sherry Maynard Frisbee
1983	Jimmy Ray Barnett		Sierra Lynn Frisbee
	Robert Delmar Swaney		Ariel Nicole Frisbee

MEMBERSHIP REGISTER ANTIOCH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2000

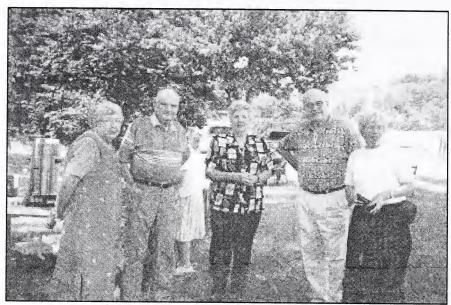
Preparatory Membership

2001 Sierra Lynn Frisbee Ariel Nicole Frisbee Justin Patrick Wood Colby Ryan Wood

Full Membership

2001 Sherry Maynard Frisbee
Jeanette Lawson Nix
Margaret Ann Quota
Amanda Sexton Cutshall
Judy Strom Wrenn
Hardin Eugene Wrenn
Randy Patrick Wood
Vinnie (Missy) Ensley Wood

ANTIOCH CHURCH FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM



above: Frances Strom, Charles Waddell, Viola Wilds, Albert Wilds, Ruth Wood

below: Barbara Wrenn, Missy Wood, Randy Wood, James Wrenn









above tejt. Mitjora Lawson above right: Jeanette Nix, Pauline Lawson left: Marie Lawson below: Sherry Frisbee, Winnie Broglin, Violet Wills, Linda Cutshall, Pauline Stills, Carolyn Gentry, Alma Maynard

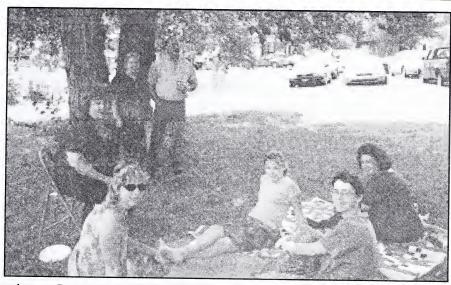




above: Mike Maynard, Vaughn Barnett, Len Frisbee

below: Stephen Schoof, Andrew Smith, Shelly Broglin, Leslie Schoof





above: Dwaine Strom, Kay Cody, Ann Strom, Belinda Strom, Teresa Strom, Melissa Strom, Sarah Strom

below: Timmy Strom, Glen Barnett, Tommy Strom, Freddie Barnett



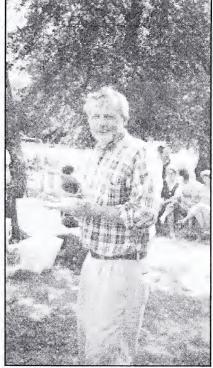


above: Mallory Smith, Taylor Denton, Ed Turner, Donna Smith, Diane Barnett, Chris Barnett

below: Ginger Rice, Pauline Stills, Cameron Rice, Donna Barnett, Ariel Frisbee, Jimmy Barnett, Hailey Rice



Amanda Cutshall





Wayne Strom



Heather Sams



Neal and Geneva Barnett



Ariel Frisbee, Hannah King, Sierra Frisbee, Neal Barnett, Andy Barnett, Caleb Barnett



above: Jack Barnett, Fred Barnett, Lee Barnett

right: Rosco Garris, Fred Barnett, Junior Lamb

below: Fred and Hattie Barnett

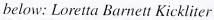




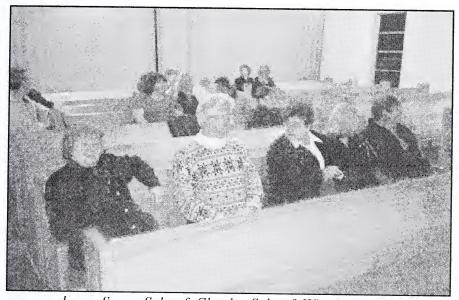




above: Shelly Broglin, Leslie Schoof, Winnie Broglin







above: Susan Schoof, Charles Schoof, Winnie Broglin, Shelly Broglin, Wayne Broglin, Travis Parton, Patsy Parton

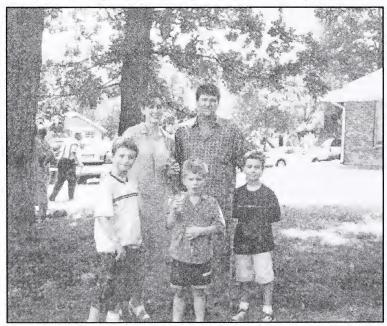
below: Sierra Frishee, "Ma" Odra Maynard, Toni Patterson





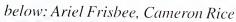
above: April Adams, Mike Maynard, Frances Strom, Wayne Strom







above: Robbie Patterson, Shian Lamb, Toni Patterson



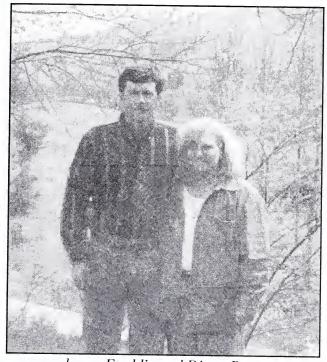




left: Isabel Maynard and Sierra Frisbee

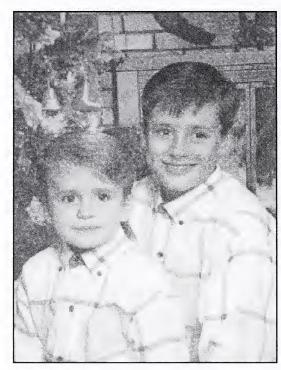
below: Sam and Bonnie Barnett





above: Freddie and Diane Barnett below: Freddie Barnett and grandchildren Hailey, Cameron, Caitlyn Rice





left: Tucker and Chance Hunter

below: Donna, Seth and Mallory Smith



right: Brett, Justin, Matthew Kickliter and Geneva Barnett



below: Ann Strom and Frances Strom





CHRISTMAS PLAY 1999

above: Sherry Frisbee, Alma Maynard, Isabel Maynard, Frances Strom, Toni Patterson, Ira Adams

facing page, top: Frances Strom, Toni Patterson, Ira Adams, Ariel Frisbee, Hannalı King, Sierra Frisbee, Shian Lamb

facing page, bottom: Leslie Schoof







Sarah Stribling, Warren Nix, Mike Maynard

Sierra Frisbee, Ariel Frisbee, Hannah King, Sherry Frisbee, Sarah Strom, Teresa Strom

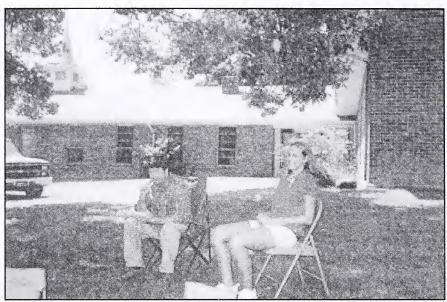




above: Violet Wills, Leslie Schoof, Steve Schoof, Judy Wrenn, Isabel Maynard, Heather Sams, Gloria Sundquist (photo by Winnie Wills Broglin)

below: Mallory Smith, Jimmy Barnett, Diane Barnett, Pauline Stills, Geneva Barnett





Sam Barnett and Marcy Lamb

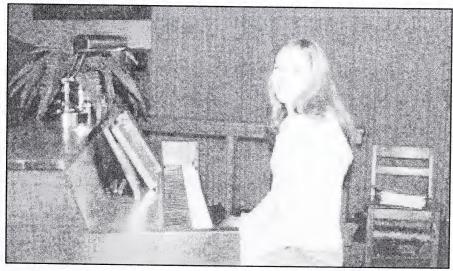
Chance Hunter, Jeanette Nix, Jennifer Hunter





Marie Lawson's Sunday School Class Janette Nix, Ariel Frisbee, Marie Lawson, Sierra Frisbee, Vickie English, Sherry Frisbee, Bernice Reed, Isabel Maynard, Frances Strom, Amanda Cutshall, Delmar Swaney, Eugene Lawson, Carolyn Gentry, April Adams, Freddie Barnett (photo by Winnie Wills Broglin)

Pianist Sierra Frisbee

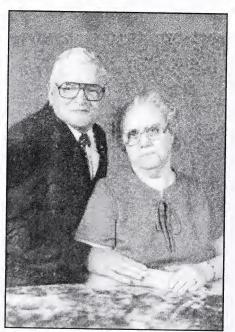




Pastor Randy Wood



Sunday School Secretary Delmar Swaney



Lucille Lawson Gowan, at the age of 93, is the oldest member of Antioch today. She is pictured here with her husband, Dolmon.
They make their home in the Upper Shut-In community



Antioch Worship Service is held each Sunday at 11 o'clock
1st row: Will Barnett, Andy Barnett, Colby Wood, Missy Wood,
Shian Lamb, Ariel Frisbee, Marie Lawson, Toni Patterson,
Judy Wrenn, Sierra Frisbee, Frances Strom, Felicia Moore
2nd row: Bernice Reed, _____, Amanda Cutshall, Delmar Swaney,
_____, Cassie Lamb, Marcy Lamb, Chris Barnett, April Adams,
Carolyn Gentry, Jeanette Nix, Fran Wills, Crystal Brown,
Isabel Maynard, Winnie Broglin
3rd row: _____, Randy Wood, Larry Patterson, Justin Wood, Barbara

3rd row: ____, Randy Wood, Larry Patterson, Justin Wood, Barbara Wrenn, Jim Wrenn, Hardin Wrenn, Eugene Lawson, Freddie Barnett (photo made after the October 20, 2002 service by Sherry Frisbee)



Randy and Missy Wood

Obituaries

V.L. Church Dies Near Hot Springs Funeral of Prominent Citizen Thursday

VERNON L. CHURCH, 54, prominent farmer and merchant of Antioch, near Hot Springs, died at his home Wednesday morning, Dec. 27, at 7:30 o'clock, following an illness of six weeks.

Mr. Church first became ill of pleurisy, followed by pneumonia. He was thought to be on the way to recovery, but bronchial pneumonia developed Monday, resulting in his death.

The eldest son of the late Wesley Church and of Mrs. Susan Barrett Church, he was born and reared near Antioch. For the past several years, he had been engaged in both farming and the merchantile business, and was considered one of the leading business men of this section of Madison County. He was a member of the Antioch Methodist church for 35 years and was superintendent of the Sunday School at the time of his death. He long had been active in church and community work.

He is survived by his mother, who made her home with him; his widow Mrs. Allie Payne Church; two daughters, Mrs. Swann Huff and Mrs. Neil Lewis, both of Hot Springs; two brothers, Ed and Dennis Church, both of Hot Springs; a sister, Mrs. J.H. Reeves, of Hot Springs; and one grandchild, Virginia Huff.

The funeral services will be held Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Antioch Methodist church, with the Rev. M.T. Smathers, of Asheville, and the Rev. M.W. Edwards, of Mill Springs, officiating. The pastor of the church, the Rev. Z.V. Arthur is away on a Christmas vacation. Burial will be in the church cemetery. Active pall-bearers will be Howard Wills, Burnett Wills, Greene Waddell, Jack Shipley, Fred Barnett, and Arnold Lamb, all members of Mr. Church's Sunday School class. Honorary pallbearers: Murphy Bryan, of Morristown, Tenn., Horace Burnett and Hugh Taylor, of Newport, Tenn., A.L. Dennis, of Marshall and Glenn Brooks, W.T. Davis, C.L. Stamey, Will Fleming, Claud Huff, George Lippard, Gerdine Gentry, and Ed Huff, all of Hot Springs. Flower-bearers will be members of the Sunday School.

Rev. Edgar Clapp

Services for the Rev. Edgar B. Clapp, 79, of 144 Reed St., Biltmore, who died Sunday, will be held at 11 A.M. Tuesday in the chapel of Groce Funeral Home.

The Rev. Pascal Waugh will officiate. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Joe King, Paul Rice, Sol Reese, Ralph Osteen, Frank Alexander and Boyd Bryson. Honorary pallbearers will be Blake Creasman, Ernest Melton, Dr. Phillip Russell, Kingsland Van Winkle, Lloyd Rathburn, Max Osteen and Paul Cochrane.

A native of Mitchell County, Mr. Clapp was a retired Methodist minister, having served in churches in Florida, Missouri and Arizona.

Following his retirement in 1952, he lived in Hot Springs and Old Fort. He had lived in Biltmore the past two years. His wife, the late Mrs. Mae Norton Clapp, died April 20, 1965.

Surviving are two sisters, Mrs. Jay Frisbie, of Long Beach, Calif. and Miss Edith Clapp of the home; and a brother, Charles W. Clapp of Biltmore.

Former Hot Springs Pastor and Mayor Dies

Rev. Z.V. Arthur Rites To Be Held On Friday Morning

THE REV. Z.V. ARTHUR, 73, of Hot Springs died about noon Wednesday, Jan. 9, 1963, in a Sylva hospital following a lengthy illness.

Funeral services will be held Friday morning at 11:00 o'clock at the Hot Springs Methodist Church. The Revs. H.R. Sellers and W.C. Clark will officiate. The body will be interred in Delaware, Ohio.

Pallbearers will be Willie Collins, Kenneth Burgin, Reeves Church, Swan Huff, Aubrey Ramsey and William Kissack.

The body will lie in state 30 minutes prior to the service.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Agnes Arthur of Hot Springs; one daughter, Mrs. Violet R. Lewis of Marion Ill.; and one brother, Orre Arthur of Delaware, Ohio.

Mr. Arthur was a former mayor of Hot Springs and was pastor of Hot Springs Methodist Church for 12 years. He also had served as an Army chaplain.

The family requests that contributions be made to Hot Springs Methodist church in lieu of flowers.

Bowman Funeral Home is in charge.

Lee Barnett

REV. LEE PAIGE BARNETT, age 93, of 3420 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte, N.C., died Sunday morning, November 13, 1994 at the Wesley Nursing Center, Charlotte, N.C. Mr. Barnett was born in Madison County October 1, 1901 to Zack and Isabel Lamb Barnett. He was a retired Methodist Minister, having served for many years at the First United Methodist Church in Pilot Mountain. He was a member of the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. After his retirement, he served as Director of Cultivation and Promotion at Brevard College, and was a member of Masonic Lodge No. 493 AF&AM in Pilot Mountain. Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Jennie Graybeal Barnett, 3420 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte, N.C.; one daughter, Mrs. Jennie Lee Peoples, 89 Lucy Street, McEwen, Tenn.; one son, Mr. Charles Lee Barnett, West Jefferson, N.C. three grandchildren, Eddie, Cecelia and Porter Craig Wall; two brothers, Mr. Jack Barnett, Dobson, N.C. and Mr. Fred Barnett, Hot Springs, N.C. A memorial service will be held on Sunday afternoon, November 20, 1994 at the First United Methodist Church in Pilot Mountain, N.C. at 4 P.M. by the Rev. Reggie Cooke and Rev. Jim Boles. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The Scholarship Fund at Brevard College, French Broad Street, Brevard, N.C. 28712. Cox-Needham Funeral Home and Chapel in Pilot Mountain, N.C. is in charge of the arrangements.

Hattie Barnett

Funeral services were held June 19 for Hattie Barnett, 75, who died in a Greenville, Tenn. hospital June 16 after a lingering illness.

Services were held at the Antioch Methodist Church of which she was a member. The Rev. Lee P. Barnett and Rev. Harry Wing officiating. Burial was conducted in the Fairview Cemetery. Grandsons served as pallbearers. She was survived by her husband, Fred A. Barnett; two daughters, Mrs. Isabell Maynard, Jr. and Mrs. Frances Strom, both of Hot Springs; four sons Neal and Vaughan Barnett of Hot Springs, Glen Barnett of Richmond, Va., and Tommy Barnett of White Pine; one sister, Mrs. Maude Wills of Hot Springs; two brothers, Dewey Briggs of Greenville, S.C., and Robert Briggs of White Pine; 19 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Eulala Drake

Eulala Morris Drake, 86, died Saturday, June 15, 1996, at Givens Estates Health Care.

Born in Madison County, she was a daughter of the late Oscar and Minnie Brown Morris and wife of John Lee Drake, who died in 1982. She was a certified nursing assistant formerly associated with Appalachian Hall. She was a member of Haywood Street United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women and Homemakers Class.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Viola and Albert Wilds of Asheville; sisters, Bonnie Butler of Greenville, S.C., Nola Gunter and Mary Forbes of Newport, Tenn.; brothers, Grover Morris of Newport, Tenn., Doyle Morris of Dayton, Ohio, Walter Morris of Paducah, Ky.; grandsons and their wives, Albert and Mary Ann Wilds Jr., Timothy and Jenny Wilds; great-grandchildren, Evangeline Grace Wilds, Albert Wilds III and William Wilds.

A memorial services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Haywood Street United Methodist Church with the Rev. Patricia Jenkins officiating.

Memorials may be made to Givens Estates or to Haywood Street United Methodist Church.

The family will be at the home of Albert and Viola Wilds, 150 Vance Crescent Ext.

Groce Funeral Service is in charge of arrangements.

Charles Wills

Charles Edward Wills, 65, of 241 Grassy Creek Road, Hot Springs, died Wednesday, June 19, 1996, in Memorial Mission Hospital after an extended illness.

A lifelong resident of Madison County, he was a son of the late Lewis Wills and Maude Briggs Wills. He was a farmer and a Methodist. He also served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. He was preceded in death by his father, Lewis Wills; brothers, Eugene and David Wills; grandchildren, Hayden Gray Meadows and Leanna Jane Meadows.

He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Maxine Silver Wills; daughter, Diana Meadows of Hot Springs; son, Gary Wills of Hot Springs; mother Maude Briggs Wills of Hot Springs; sister Violet Wills of Hot Springs; grandchildren, Chris Wills, Nicholas Wills and Crystal Moore; great-grandchild Avery Moore.

Services will be at 2 P.M. Sunday at Antioch United Methodist Church with the Revs. Robert White, Will Pruett, Larry Arrowood, and Salvation Army Capt. Kenneth Oakes officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 7 to 9 P.M. Saturday at Madison Funeral Home, Marshall.

MIINIE LOUISE GREEN, 79, went to be with her Lord at 12:30 A.M. Friday morning, April 14, 2000, at Elderberry Health Care.

Minnie was a homemaker and member of the Salvation Army Church. She was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, Clifford Green; four sisters, Mary Turner, Pearl Bible, Thelma Massey and Viva Lee Ellison; and five brothers, Cecil, Paul, Lewis, Elmer Ernest, and Walter Ellison.

She is survived by four daughters and sons-in-law, Ovella and Willard Swaney of Hot Springs, Brenda and George Cody of White Pine, Tenn., Vonda and Herbert Dockery of Cosby, Tenn., and Connie and Arthur Roberts of Alexander; two sons and daughters-in-law, Donnie and Wanda Green of Hot Springs and Clifford Jr. and Nancy Green of Hot Springs; two sisters, Bertha Berryhill of Greeneville, Tenn. and Opal Milton of Knoxville, Tenn.; 17 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; five great-great-children; and several nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends 6-9 P.M. Saturday at Brown Funeral Home. The funeral service will be 2 P.M. Sunday at the funeral home chapel with the Rev. Bobby Hayes, the Rev. Eugene Green

and the Rev. White officiating. Interment will be at Huff Cemetery in Del Rio, Tenn.

Brown Funeral Home, Newport, Tenn., is in charge of arrangements.

MRS. LILLIAN C. SEXTON ADAMS, 54, of Hot Springs, North Carolina, died Friday at her home following and extended illness.

She was a life-long resident of Madison County; a member of the Antioch United Methodist Church; and a co-founder of God's Little Helpers, which is an outreach of the Lord to the community.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Clinton C. Adams; mother, Maggie Sexton; and brother, Elmer James Sexton.

Survivors include her son, Ira Lynn Adams; daughter, April Dawn Adams, both of Hot Springs, North Carolina; sister, Helen Ellison, Newport; niece, Polly Lovin; great-nephew, Eric James Lovin; great-niece, Marisa Raven Lovin, all of Newport; father, McKinley Sexton, Hot Springs, North Carolina; two half-brothers, Sherman Sexton and Alfred Sexton, both of Lexington, North Carolina; and two half-sisters, Addie Crisp, Lexington, North Carolina, and Doshie Miller, Hot Springs, North Carolina.

The funeral will be 2 P.M. Monday at Antioch United Methodist Church in Hot Springs, North Carolina, with Rev. Elgin Nichols, Rev. Wyllene Skipper and Auxiliary Captain Kenneth Oakes officiating. Burial will be in the Antioch Cemetery.

The body will be taken to the church to lie in state from $1:30\ \text{P.M.}$ until $2\ \text{P.M.}$

Pallbearers will be Willard Swaney, Shermont Stills, Vernon Stills, Bobby Sexton, Clydes Swaney, and Ronnie Caldwell.

The family received friends 7-9 P.M. Sunday at Costner-Maloy Funeral Home.

Costner-Maloy Funeral Home, Newport, is in charge.

Dr. Kickliter's wife, Loretta, dies

The wife of a local doctor died Monday morning following a lengthy illness.

LORETTA KICKLITER, 38, of Newport, died at her home.

She was the wife of Family Practice Center doctor David Kickliter. She was a member of Antioch United Methodist Church, and attended First Baptist Church, where she was a member of Dean Williams' Sunday school class.

After graduating form Hot Springs High School, she attended Maryville College and the University of Tennessee. She graduated from Kennestone Radiological Hospital School of Radiological Technology in Marietta, Georgia, and worked in that capacity until she became a mother.

She was also a member of the Newport Garden Club.

Kickliter was active in supporting the Newport Grammar School's basketball program and the Newport Recreation basketball and baseball programs.

Survivors include her husband, Dr. David Kickliter; sons, Matthew, Justin and Brett, Newport; parents, Neal and Geneva Barnett, Hot Springs, North Carolina; grandfather, Fred Barnett, Hot Springs, North Carolina; sister, Donna Smith, Hartford; and brothers, Freddie Barnett, Del Rio, and Sam and Jim Barnett, Hot Springs, North Carolina.

The funeral will be $8:30\,\mathrm{P.M.}$ Wednesday at the Brown Funeral Chapel with Dr. Charlie Boggan officiating. Burial will be $10\,\mathrm{A.M.}$ Thursday in Union Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 6-8:30 $\ensuremath{\mathtt{P.M.}}$ Wednesday prior to the service.

Brown Funeral Home is in charge.



United Methodist Church Hot Springs, N.C.



ralph@abooks.com





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